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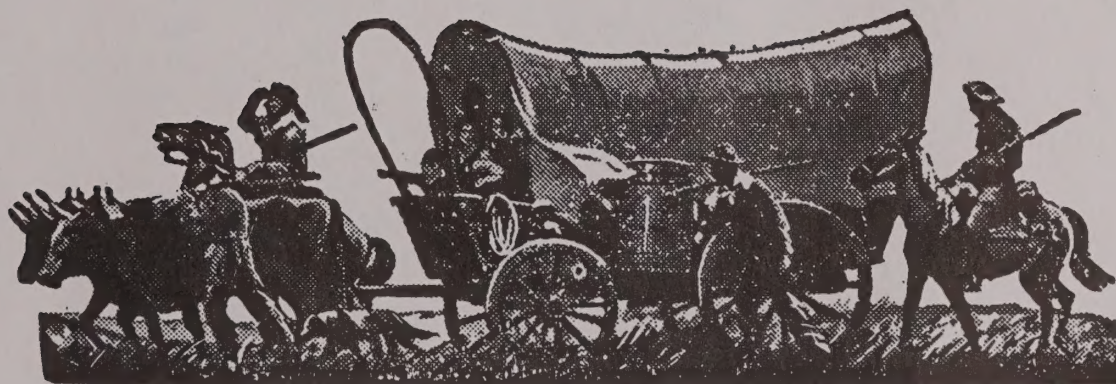
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Sheldon Centennial, a
century of prairie ...



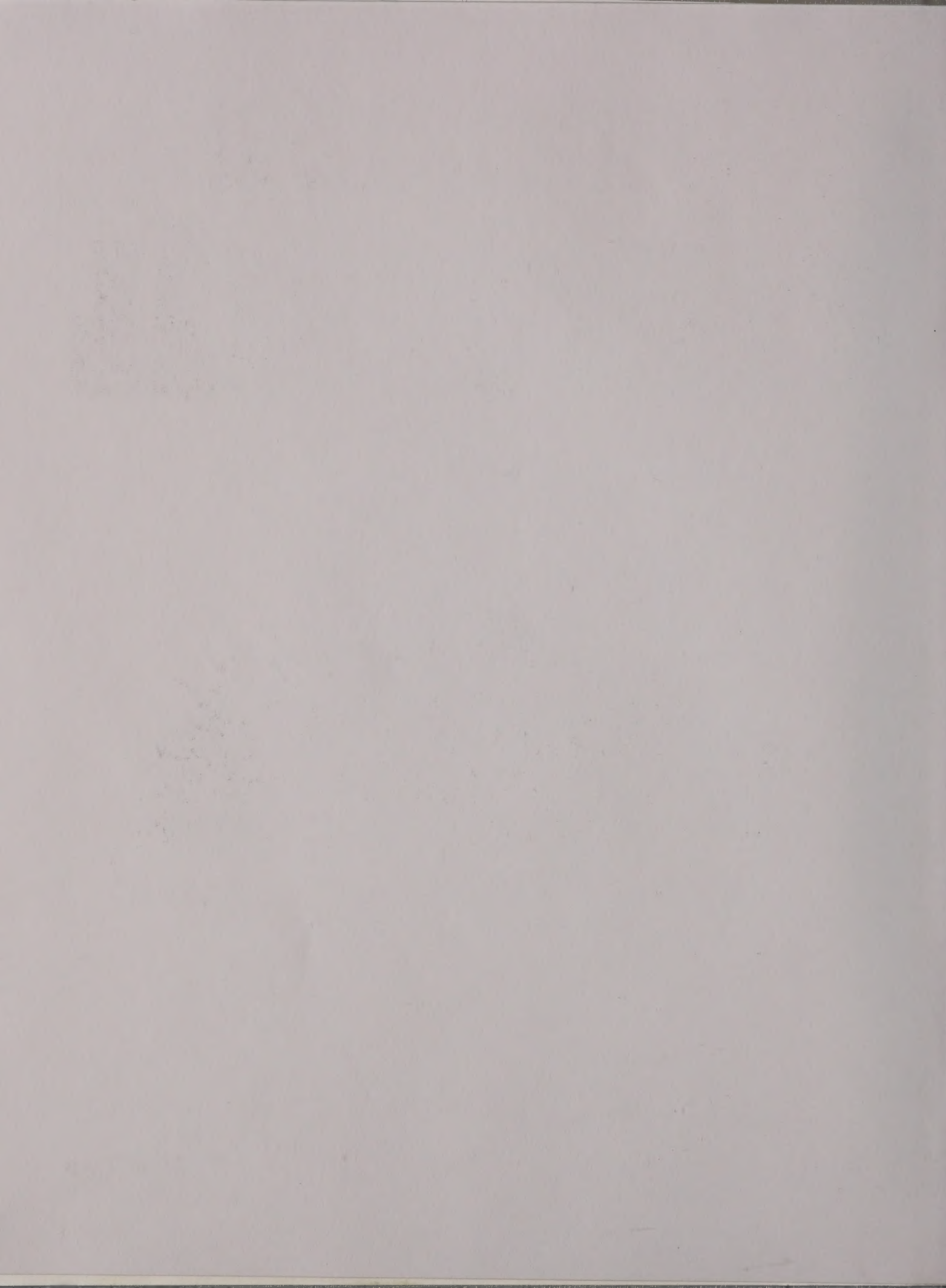
SHELDON CENTENNIAL



A Century of Prairie Progress

1859

1959



Foreword

This is the story, in words and pictures of Sheldon's progress during the past century—an account of times, places, persons and events.

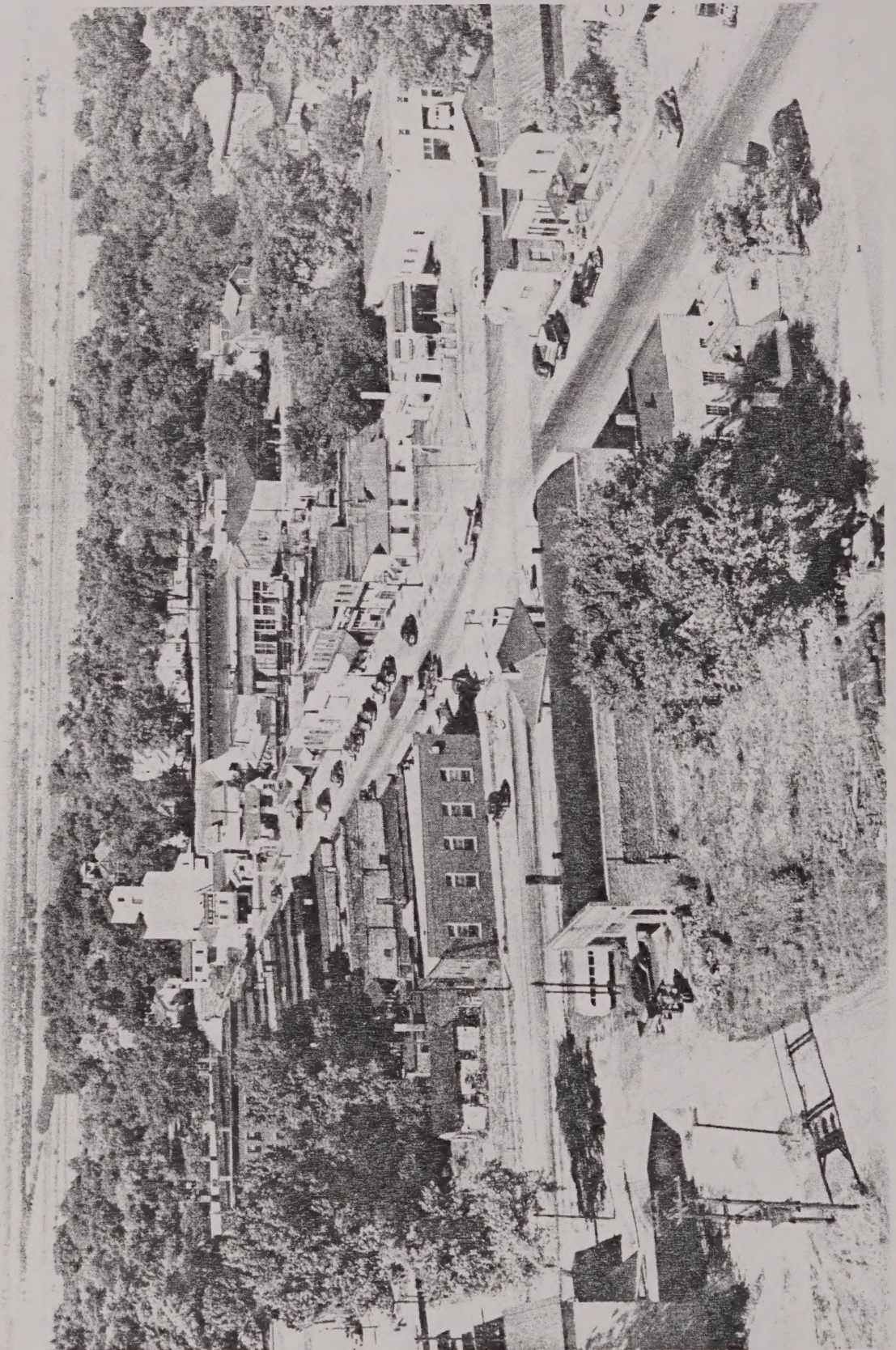
It is impossible to give due credit to all of those who have contributed to its success, to do so would require volumes. There can be no doubt that carving a townsite out a tangle of prairie grass and swamps was a major task.

Therefore, we dedicate this Centennial History to the memory of all of those early pioneers and those who came after them, who toiled and sacrificed to make Sheldon what it is today.

We also wish to thank each and every one who has contributed in any way to this book, your help was needed and deeply appreciated.

We hope that the Centennial activities will leave Sheldon an even better place to live in its second hundred years.

The History Committee



Birdseye View of Sheldon, looking Northeast.

"SHELDON"

Contributed by—Miss Geneva Bush Gibson

"AN UNUSUAL SMALL TOWN AND RURAL COMMUNITY"

Such has been the customary comment of newcomers and visitors to Sheldon for many years.

Naturally this appraisalment was based upon comfortable homes, well kept lawns, accredited schools, beautiful schools, beautiful churches, good agri-business services, fertile farms and accessibility to Chicago, the great heart of the Midwest. Behind those apparent factors, however, is the spirit of the people for in the final analysis it is the people who make a town.

The people who came to Sheldon, came not in a frenzied rush for gold but rather to follow the Jeffersonian ideal of life, liberty and pursuit of happiness. In this latter venture they were to found homes and acquire property and to band together to establish schools, to erect churches and to organize local government. In all of these they were highly successful, and as we come to the close of our first "Hundred Years," may we give thanks to our Heavenly Father for all those who have done so much in the past. Let us highly resolve, that each of us, will do his best, so that those who come after us may continue to find Sheldon a pleasant place to live.



Dr. Carl D. Webster, Centennial Corporation President, Mrs. Webster and son, Dennis.



Robert C. Megginson
Centennial Chairman



CENTENNIAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Standing — Robert Megginson, chairman; seated L. to R. — Barton Bishopp, R. E. Leyman, Vice President; Carroll Payne, Mrs. Emmett Bigger, treasurer; Mrs. William Disosway, Mrs. Clarence Keller, Jr., secretary; Alden Dennison and Joseph Keller. Other members not in picture—Dr. Carl Webster and Artist Hill.

CENTENNIAL COMMITTEES



Centennial History Committee

Standing L. to R. — Barton Bishopp, Harry Brubaker, Gene Reiley, Leslie Morgan, Mrs. Herschel Zumwalt.
Seated — Miss Gertrude Smith, Mrs. John Jensen, Mrs. Mabel Shrimplin, Mrs. William Disosway, Mrs. C. M. Foster, Mrs. W. C. Disosway and Mrs. Leslie Warrick. Other members not in picture — Artist Hill, Miss Vera Seymour and Mrs. George Berry.

History Advertising Committee

Mrs. Emmett Bigger and Mrs. Louise Wolfe, co-chairman, Joseph Keller, Mrs. Jack Reynolds, Charles Rutledge, Clarence Keller, Jr., and Mrs. Robert Megginson.

Centennial Dates: July 26 through August 1, 1959

Congratulations

SHELDON

ON 100 YEARS
OF PROGRESS

Prairie to Prosperity

B. J. BISHOPP

EARLY HISTORY

The history of Sheldon is much the history of Sheldon Township, County of Iroquois and State of Illinois. After those settlements the town was finally established.

When first explored, Illinois, like other portions of our country was inhabited by the red men. The powerful Algonquin tribe occupied the territory east of the Mississippi River. To these people the "Illinois Country" with its rolling prairies, the feeding ground of buffalo and deer, its forests filled with small game, its swamps with fowl and its navigable rivers, ideal for traveling in their canoes, offered a congenial home.

Fortunately, for the early settlers of this part of Illinois, it was the hunting grounds of the Pottowatomies. They lived in small villages or roving bands and were friendly to the white men.

By treaty and conquest they were finally removed from Illinois. The final emigration took place in the summer of 1838 under the direction of General John Tipton. They left with great reluctance, some were on foot, some on horseback, others in wagons. Eye witnesses said it was a solemn and sad march to the west. In all, about one thousand Indians made the trip. They were settled on reservations west of the Missouri River.

The first white man to settle in Iroquois County was Gurdon S. Hubbard, an Indian fur trader, then in the employ of the American Fur Company. He came from Mackinaw, coasting Lake Michigan in a batteau of ten tons burden and ascending the Chicago River, crossing by portage to the Des Plaines. Floating down this, he reached the Kankakee and Iroquois Rivers and thence to the site of Old Middleport. On the north side of the river, about one mile above this point was a small Indian village. He made his headquarters and established a trading post here in the winter of 1821-22. He stayed only one winter, moving the next fall farther east to a place called Bunkum, afterward Iroquois, and extended his operations over wide territory. He also established trading posts on the Kankakee River ten miles above the state line, another on the Wabash River, and later one at Danville. Hubbard's pack trains made a standard route known as Hubbard's Trail from Danville to Chicago, which gathered travel for many, many miles on either side. It afterward became known as the state road, which gave the name to State street, Chicago, upon its termination there. By this trail the early pioneers hauled their wheat and

oats, returning with salt and what few commodities could be purchased in the young "City by the Lake". Sugar was made at home or its substitute, honey, was found on practically every pioneer table. Along this trail they also drove their cattle, hogs and turkeys to market. Every few miles there were taverns for the entertainment and care of man and beast. The business of keeping public house grew until the coming of the railroads. Even after 1860 it was not uncommon, in the fall of the year, to count hundreds of teams on the trail.

As early as 1826 Hubbard pre-empted a tract of land at Bunkum and enclosed and cultivated 80 acres. This he entered when it came into market in 1831. It was later known as the Dunning farm and was the first improved in Iroquois County.

Mr. Hubbard married an Indian Princess named Wach-e-kee, a daughter of a Pottowatomi Chief of the Kankakee band. By this union, Hubbard greatly strengthened his relations with the Indians and secured their favor and protection. Later this marriage was dissolved, by mutual consent of both parties.

The actual permanent settlement of Iroquois County was begun at two points, Milford and Bunkum in the spring of 1830. Later the population came into the prairie of Sheldon Township both from the north and south.

The timber was the scene of all settlements until about 1848, when Zedic Parks, a native of Coshocton County, Ohio, who had been living near Iroquois, for a number of years, Cortez-like marched far out into the sea of prairie grass and pitched his tent, on the road leading from Lafayette to Chicago, via Iroquois. He built a cabin at a point about one-third of a mile northeast of the present railway station in Sheldon. He engaged in keeping hotel which was conducted on the "corn bread and common doings plan" and also did a little farming, but he seemed to be a migratory character and soon moved on.

This early record is verified in John Ade's "History of Newton County, Indiana". In speaking of his first trip from Lafayette to Bunkum, he states "That after passing Parrish Grove in the morning until he reached the timber of Iroquois, which was in the vicinity of Bunkum, he passed only two houses, the Sumner home on Sugar Creek and a small log house standing on what is now the east end of Sheldon, in the vicinity of where the Kenneth Stephens and the C. M. Foster homes now stand.

A TRIBUTE TO THE PIONEERS

All honor to our "Pioneers"—
Who came—both far and wide
To establish for themselves a home,
And there in peace abide.
They encountered many hardships,
Their troubles not a few,
As they broke and tilled the virgin soil,
But their hearts were brave and true.
They hoped for peace and comfort
For brother, friend and neighbor,
And sought to help each other,
Regardless of the labor.
At first it seemed a hopeless task—
Their homes so far apart.
Soon, others came to settle down;
At last, they could take heart.
A "village" soon was started
With a little grocery store,
A grist-mill and a blacksmith shop
With a horseshoe above the door.
And as the years rolled onward
Their hearts were filled with cheer;
More land was cleared and planted,
And they prospered from year to year.
The little "village" named Sheldon
Became a prosperous town,
And farmers—now retired—
Came here to settle down.
And now a century has passed.
For Sheldon, we have no fears;
In pride, we cheer for it, today,
Without regret or fears.
It's stood throughout the century;
It's quiet, up-to-date.
There'll always be a Sheldon,
That's just as sure as fate.
We've schoolhouses and churches
And every kind of store;
We've doctors, bankers, brokers,
Merchants, and many more.
A "rest home" to care for the aged,
A "funeral home"—when you die—
And ministers to teach us how to live.
For that "Home" beyond the sky.
Our people have that faith in God,
Which makes us, neighbor, friend—
Yes, Sheldon's a grand place to live
Until this life shall end.

When you open up this book to read
The history of our town,
We hope you'll feel an honest pride
In all that's written down,
Then give a cheer for "Sheldon"
From deep down in your heart—
If in the making of our town
You've had, at least, a part.

By Rose Darrough.

PIONEER LIFE

A great deal of praise should be given the early pioneers who braved the hazards and hardships that faced them in coming to a new land.

Settlers were slow in coming to the prairies, exposed as they were to wind and prairie fires. The land extending from Iroquois to Lafayette was called Grand Prairie.

Roads were often as impassable as in the forested areas. The whole region was covered with blue stem or joint grass which made it resemble a vast expanse of sea. Early settlers bear witness to the rank growth of vegetation on the prairies before it was grazed by livestock and supplanted with shorter grasses. In places the height of the grass would obscure both the horse and rider. The prairie sod was tough with heavy roots extending many inches under ground.

Settlers lived in constant fear of prairie fires. When the blue stem was dry, it was perfect tinder for fires that seemed to break out almost spontaneously, roaring through the countryside with crackling sounds like the rushing of a hurricane. Travelers would set fire in front of their horses and drive through the burned strip to safety. A heavy fire could be seen for many miles and a more terrifying sight than the burning prairies can scarcely be conceived.

The common diseases of that day were milk sickness and malaria. The swamps and decaying vegetable matter caused by the breaking of sod and clearing timber bred disease.

A group of Norwegian farmers, some thirty families under the leadership of Ole Ryning settled at Beaver Creek around 1838. A deadly attack of malaria was the fate of these people. Ryning became a victim and was buried in an unmarked grave. The few remaining colonists moved on to the Fox river area. Only one family name, that of Waity, remains in this part of the country. Nelson

H. Waity, with brothers and sisters, as orphan children were "bound out" for care and homes to other families living near Iroquois, later Mr. Waity became an early settler in Sheldon township.

The fate of this band of settlers happened to many. Without doctors they relied on home remedies. There was elm bark for inflammatory rheumatism, rock candy and whiskey for colds, senna leaf and sassafras tea and many poultices, made mostly of mustard and onions.

There was always work to be done. In the winter, the men cut the timbers and split the rails for the fences, and logs for the cabins. Fences made from black walnut or burr oak would last forty or fifty years.

Regardless of the hardships, the prairie schooners still poured in, each bringing a new family, and another link for the endless chain that finally settled our great country and laid the foundation for what it is today.

So, during those early hardships, the Village of Sheldon had its beginning, one hundred years ago.

EARLY SETTLERS

1830 — 1860

Jesse Eastburn Sr., a man of sixty-two years, and family were the first settlers in Sheldon township, coming here from Adams County, Ohio in 1832.

He entered his claim for 83.7 acres, (a land grant from the government for his services in the War of 1812), in the northwest part of the township and built the first home. A structure 18 ft. by 20 ft. of unhewn logs, with one door and one window, a stick chimney, plastered on the inside with clay and an oak clapboard roof completed the dwelling. It was located approximately where the Jesse Eastburn Memorial Marker now stands, on the south side of U. S. Highway 24, just east of Eastburn Hollow.

The Jesse Eastburn Sr's had nine children, four sons coming to Illinois and settling near the homeplace, later known as Eastburn Station.

The eldest son, Hezekiah Eastburn and family came in 1830 and was one of the three first



Jesse R. Eastburn, Sr. home, where Gurdon S. Hubbard, first white man in Iroquois County, was a guest on his only return visit to Iroquois County in 1880. Standing L. to R. — Mattie Eastburn (Rosenberger), mother of Mrs. William M. Disosway, a friend of the Hubbards; Gurdon S. Hubbard, his niece, Mrs. Mary Hamilton, Richard Hamilton, Mrs. Hubbard and Jesse R. Eastburn, Jr. Seated — Jesse R. Eastburn, Sr. and Mrs. Eastburn.

This is now the home of the Bunnard Eastburn family.

settlers in Iroquois County. In 1833 Joseph B.; Jesse Jr.; and William Eastburn families arrived. All came from Adams County, Ohio, making the trip in covered wagons, as did all the other settlers for many years to come.

In 1834 the William Lister family from Tennessee and the Samuel Joneses from Indiana settled in the vicinity of the Eastburns. Mr. Lister opened a blacksmith shop, the first business enterprise in the township.

During the next ten years, P. Shearls, R. Lister, Frank Clark and the William Young families came. Until 1848 the timber in the northwest part of the township was the scene of all settlement, but in that year Zedic Parks settled in what is now the northeast part of the town of Sheldon and the William Bussert family settled at the northwest edge of town. Also in 1848 Oliver P. Bookless arrived and became Sheldon township's first school teacher. In 1850 he married Miss Emily Lister and settled at what is now the southeast corner of the Shewami Country Club.

In 1852, Robert and Isaac Caldwell came and settled two miles south of Sheldon on what was then the 'wide open spaces'. It is said, the Caldwell Brothers, upon first seeing their purchase, decided they had bought a vast amount of 'Blue Sky'.

In 1854 Nelson Waity settled just west of Sheldon, and 1855 witnessed the arrival of Stephen Davis and John Darrough. The Darroughs settled far out in the land of, 'No Where' at what is now Darrow Station. About the same time the E. B. Bishopp and the J. W. Murray families arrived.

Other early settlers were Jacob Wingard, Christian Zumwalt, Stephen Buckley, Samuel Clark, Joseph Brubaker, James Hougland, George Haxby, G. F. Hull, David White, Robert, John and Frank Webster, who came from England, and many others.

Thus the prairie swamps of Sheldon township, "The place that seemed unfit for the habitation of man", became a fertile countryside and by the 1870's was dotted with prosperous farms and comfortable homes.

The year 1859 was a memorable one, for it was then the Toledo, Peoria and Warsaw Railroad was completed across the township and a switch placed and named "Sheldon".

On March 1, 1860, William B. Fleager was sent as agent and thus he became the first settler and founder of the town.



William B. Fleager, 1830-1916
Founder of Sheldon, Illinois
1859-60

He has two sons living — Clarence of Seattle, Washington and Samuel of Chicago.

He was born in Carlisle, Penn. in 1830 and as it is stated elsewhere in this history, his hardships were many in his early years in Sheldon. With foresight and energy he set about making a town. His 'firsts' in Sheldon are legend, he spent the rest of his long and energetic life, planning and building to make the town he founded a better place to live.

He died in 1916 at the age of eighty-six.

Practically a co-settler with Mr. Fleager was William L. Smith. In 1859 Mr. Smith formed a partnership with a Mr. Sherman and soon after the completion of the switch, put up a small shed and a pair of scales and started buying grain. This was Sheldon's first business enterprise. Mr. Smith died in 1861, leaving one son, Orren G. Smith, who continued in the grain business in Sheldon until his death in 1928.

Dr. S. A. Barry was the first physician, coming in 1860. A leading figure in establishing the town, he was president of the first village board in 1871, therefore Sheldon's first 'Mayor'.

Hugh Cutchan and William Wood also came in 1860. From then on the town grew rapidly.

EARLY HISTORY OF TOWN

1859-60 — 1875

Although there were settlers in the prairies surrounding the area, Sheldon did not come into being until the winter of 1859-60, when the Toledo, Peoria and Warsaw Railroad was completed. In January 1860 a switch was placed on Sec. 2, T. 26 N., R. 11W. and named Sheldon for a railroad official whose last name was Sheldon.

The town was surveyed; the original plot consisted of a hundred acre tract of land (two hundred lots). The lots were priced from twenty-five to seventy-five dollars. The land belonged to Judge Chamberlain and James Lawrence. It is interesting to note there was only one tree on the original town plot, located near the present home of John Hoagland. At an early date Dr. Bush, father of Mrs. H. C. Dowell, moved trees from his farm, the beginning of Sheldon's beautiful tree lined streets.

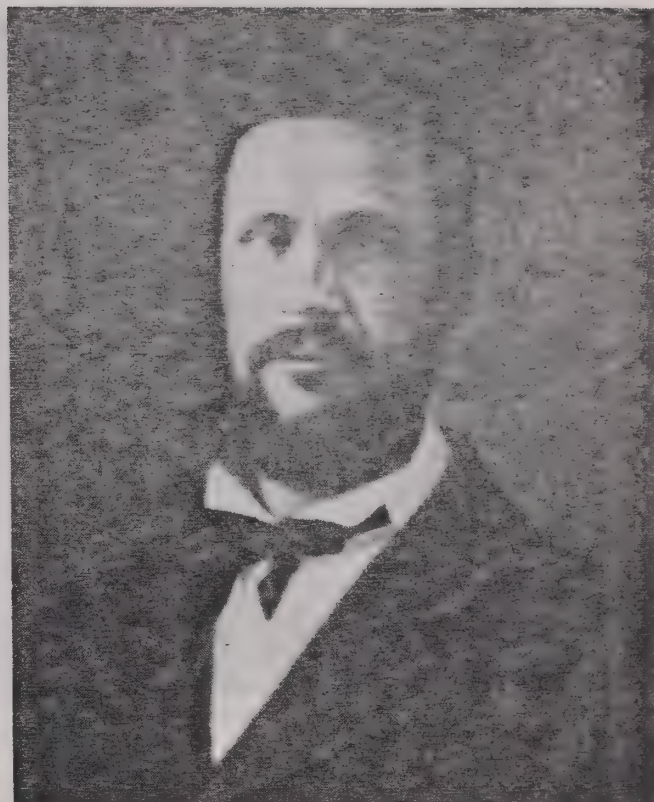
During the winter of 1859-60, Mr. Charles Sherman and Mr. William Smith erected a small shed, installed a pair of scales and began buying grain for shipment. Probably the first load of grain sold, was by Jacob Wingard and the first shipment to the switch were five cars of lumber to Mr. Wingard, who was making improvements on his farm south of the switch.

All business of the station was transacted at Gilman until March 1, 1860 when William B. Fleager was sent to Sheldon to act as station agent. He boarded with the William Bussert Family, three-fourths of a mile north of the station, but the walking was so bad, he procured a railroad car, placed it at the switch and used it as his residence, depot and freight house. In May, he erected two buildings, size 14 ft. by 20 ft. and 12 ft. by 16 ft., one placed two feet behind the other. Upon their completion, they were occupied by himself and family.

At the beginning of the sale of lots, Mr. Fleager bought the first two lots for \$100. In October he built a store building and in November stocked it with groceries.

After the village had gradually increased in inhabitants it was incorporated December 26, 1871. In January, 1872 the following officers were elected: William B. Fleager; Dr. S. A. Barry; Thomas Thornill; W. B. Fowler and J. R. Tyler. Dr. Barry was elected president and Dr. Greenlee, clerk.

The first depot was located on the south side of the T.P.&W. tracks, east of Fourth street, now



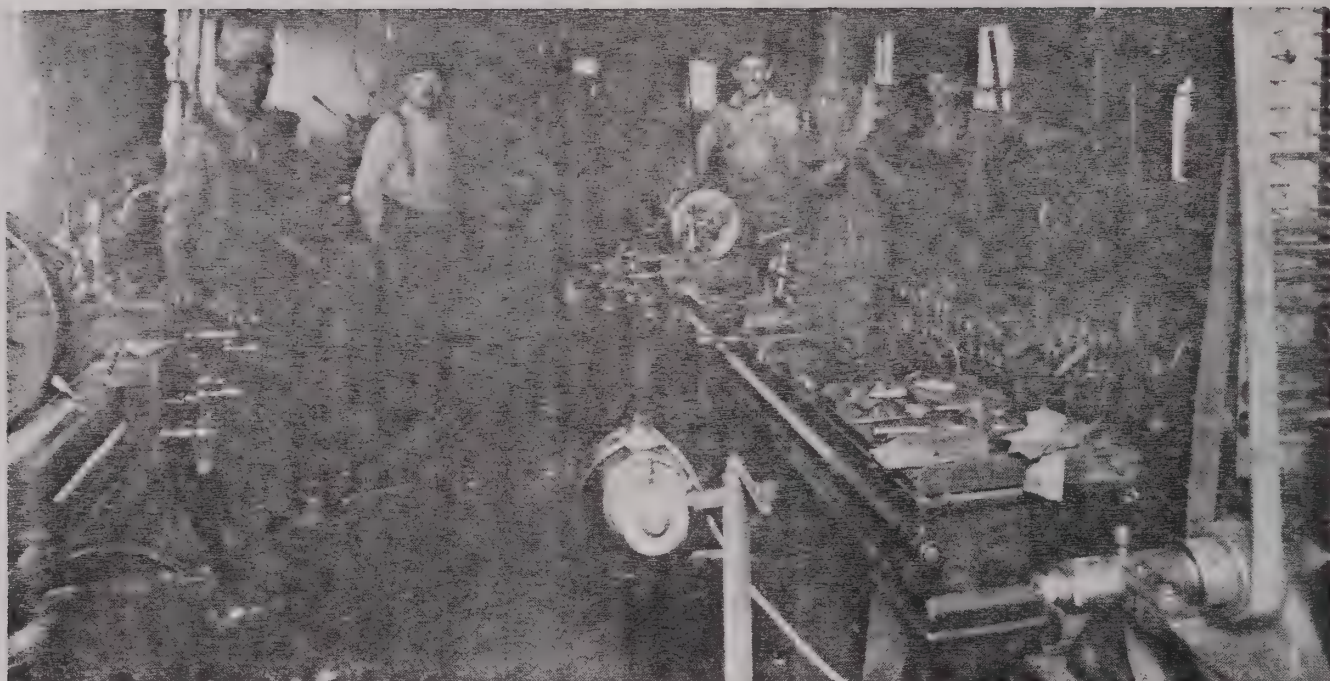
William Smith, 1823-1861

Sheldon's first business man, started buying grain in 1859. He was the father of Orren G. Smith — grandfather of Harry, Gertrude and William L. Smith.

occupied by the E. M. Sipe Lumber Co. After the Big 4 or the Cincinnati, Lafayette and Chicago Railroad was built (incidentally, the tracks were laid in Third Street eliminating it from that time on), the depot was moved to the northwest corner of the intersection of the two railroads. It was then, the lumber and coal yard of John Glass was built on the site of the original depot.

On the southwest corner of the switch was built the Welch Hotel. Some years later this Hotel was moved away. After the depot, located on the northwest corner of the intersection was destroyed by fire, the next depot was built where the Welch Hotel stood. When this depot was also destroyed by fire, the present depot was built in the same place.

Grove street was almost impassable at this time except when frozen hard in winter or dried up in summer. The corner occupied by Hogle's Filling Station contained a two-story building, the upper rooms of which were used for sleeping, were reached by an outside stairway. The part along



L. to R. — Charles Rougk, Hugo Rougk, co-founder of business, Fritz Rougk and Raymond Nichols.

From Sheldon's Oldest One - Family Business

CONGRATULATIONS!

Rougk Brothers Machine Shop

FRITZ ROUGK, Owner

ESTABLISHED IN 1885

SHELDON

ILLINOIS

Depot street was an addition, one story in height in which was located a reception room, dining room and kitchen. In the same block was a Drug store, the furniture store and undertaking establishment of S. B. Jewett and the shoe and repair business of Dr. Daniel Bailey. The latter was on the lot where the Jack Hamm residence now stands. A small low building stood where the Sheldon Township Public Library stands. The block where the Church of Christ is located was covered with water a greater part of the year, occupied only by wild ducks in the spring and fall and skaters in the winter. On the southeast corner was a barn on the only dry spot in the whole block.

Mr. Chris Mohr owned and operated a hotel where the Snow Block is. This hotel was moved back toward the Big 4 tracks and later became the Dunn Hotel.

West of the Big 4 tracks on West Main Street was a Drug store operated by Thomas Thornill, also a Real Estate office. They stood about where the Mrs. Maude Kelleher home stands. Further west on the south side of Main Street, was a lumber yard owned by Sherman Fowler and Richard Carroll. A general store owned by a Mr. Good, and a Flour Mill owned by Job Voak occupied the site of the building, (until recently occupied by Trudeau's Body Shop). The last two businesses were destroyed by fire.

In 1875 W. B. Fleager initiated a movement to build a continuous block of fifteen two-story brick store buildings to be known as Central Block. He was joined by other leading citizens and so secured for Sheldon not only the best business block in the county but for many miles around. With the building of Central Block the business district gradually shifted to its present location, on South Fourth Street.

The present Tourist Park and Messman Oil Station grounds were covered with corn cribs. The harness shop of Mr. Billy Kleise stood where the John G. Sumner home is. West of this was a wagon shop owned by Robert Ross. A Union Sunday School was conducted on the upper floor of the wagon shop on Sunday afternoons by Daniel Ayers.

A fairly large settlement of homes extended along Fourth and Fifth Streets as far north as the Methodist Church.

In 1900 the large brick building known as the Snow Block was built by the Snow family. It also faced North Fourth street.

It is interesting to note among the early stores on the east side of Fourth St., there was a restaurant operated by Steve Jones, that specialized in "bananas on ice and widely advertised lemonade." Robert Wilkerson was a wagon dealer, who advertised "buggies, carriages, phaetons, and spring wagons for sale".

It is impossible to name all the men who at some time has carried on some kind of business or profession during the past one hundred years, but to each one whoever he is or has been, we give much credit for helping make Sheldon a prosperous and pleasant town.

Rougk Brothers Machine Shop, Sheldon's second oldest business house, was started by Hugo Rougk and his brother, Emil in 1885. Later Emil sold his interest to Hugo.

Perhaps Mr. Rougk was the most widely traveled of Sheldon's early business men. He spent four years in the U. S. Navy, later working as a machinist on ocean steamers, he spent a year in South America, then Panama, Cape of Good Hope, Africa, Australia, China, Japan, California, Mexico, Texas and Chicago.

Evidently, he found in Sheldon the spot he was looking for, because he remained here until his death in 1945. The business he founded was carried on by his sons, Charles (Died in 1958) and Fritz. Now by Fritz and son Fredrick. The shop has been operated by one family 74 years.

APPRECIATION

The History of Sheldon has been supervised and compiled by Mrs. Wm. M. Disosway. In gathering material for this history, she spent much time in research and has interviewed a great number of the local citizenry. Only historians can duly appreciate and realize the tremendous amount of time and effort she has so generously contributed. The community is deeply indebted to her.

NATIVES of SHELDON

Boost The Centennial

MRS. ROSAMOND BUSH DOWELL

GENEVRA BUSH GIBSON

LESLIE AND MABEL ZUMWALT WARRICK

CHAS. C. AND ANNA ROSE SHRIMPLIN

MABEL E. JULIEN SHRIMPLIN

EARL C. AND VERA CULLIGAN HOOTMAN

C. M. AND BUNITA BOWEN FOSTER

JOE AND EMMA ROUGK TURPIN

WM. FLOYD BROWN

LESTER L. WEEKS

JOHN AND LOUISE HANSELL JENSEN

MR. AND MRS. H. E. BLUE

LYLE AND HELEN MORGAN WINSLOW

HARRY BRUBAKER

LESTER B. MEENTS AND FAMILY

CLIFFORD AND JESSIE COBB MORGAN

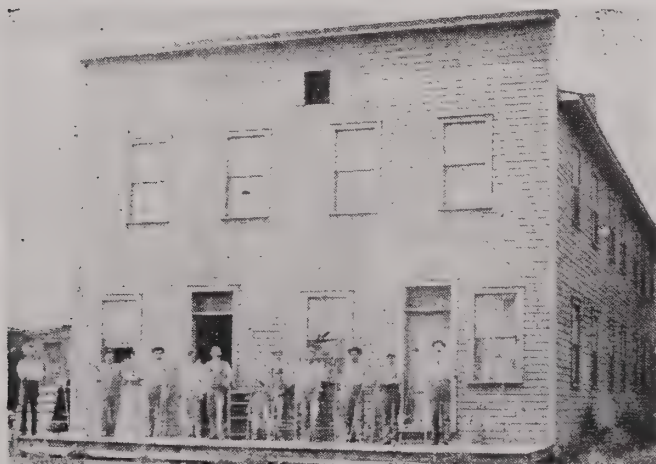
MR. AND MRS. FRED H. KUSCH



Perry W. Minier, co-founder of the fifth oldest business house in Sheldon. Founded as Minier Brothers in 1901, it later became the P. W. Minier Furniture Store and Funeral Home. The business was carried on 53 years, by Mr. Minier. Since his death it has been continued by his daughters, Mrs. Pauline Roughton, Mrs. Elsie Snow, Florence Minier and Mrs. Margaret Marsh.



William L. McCloud, operated a farm store 45 years, 1902 until his death in 1947. The business continued as the W. L. McCloud Co. Inc., under the management of his son, James McCloud, Miss Anna Swern and Frank Luhring until 1955.



Novelty Works, factory, located in building, where McCloud Farm Store was, now Hoffman Factory. Later a brick building was erected, for Novelty Works, west on Big 4 Tracks on W. Center St. Fourth man from right, Charles Clawson.



Present time — A. H. Hoffman Co. Inc. Factory



John F. Switzer, 1865-1955 at bank window. Sheldon business man for over 72 years. Over 50 years as cashier of the Sheldon State Bank and later in the Insurance business.

Father of Mrs. Ruth Sproull, Stewart Switzer and Miss Dorothy Switzer.

SHELDON
OUR BEST WISHES
HOTEL KANKAKEE

COMPLETELY AIR CONDITIONED

SLEEPING ROOMS

PRIVATE BANQUET ROOMS

THE
EMERALD ROOM

SERVING THREE MENU MEALS DAILY

SMORGASBORD Every Evening
With HOT BEEF ROAST Sliced to Order

POPULAR PRICES

SPORTSWEAR WELCOME

AAA

AHA

DUNCAN HINES

Phone WElls 3-441



Looking south, west side of present business district, shortly after Central block was built in 1875. In the distance, W. B. Fleager home, now Roy Latimer Apartment house, there were no buildings between it and downtown.



Looking south, along Fourth St. Building on left, Ross Rookery Building.



Buildings on North side of East Grove Street. Large building, Weeks Store.



Weeks Store — groceries, hardware and dry goods established in 1871, by Mr. and Mrs. William A. Weeks, later carried on by their sons, George and Paschal. Mrs. William Weeks is fourth lady from left in picture. Paschal, George and William A. are standing between teams, on sidewalk. The store included the building where Mayotte's Produce, The Journal Office and the building torn down, where Dr. C. L. Clark's Office stands. Lester L. Weeks is the son of Paschal.

GORDON H. SNOW



Insurance and Real Estate

SHELDON

ILLINOIS

Minier Furniture

SINCE 1901

Paints

Gifts

Toys

Home Furnishings

SHELDON

ILLINOIS



Chris Mohr Hotel, located where Snow block now stands. The south end was the State Bank building, it is still standing, the hotel part was moved farther west and in 1900 the Snow family built the present block. Windmill showing over building was located at town pump.



The Dunn Hotel, stood where parking lot on West Depot Street is located. Was the former Chris Mohr Hotel, before being moved.



Corner of South Fourth and West Grove Sts. around 1880.



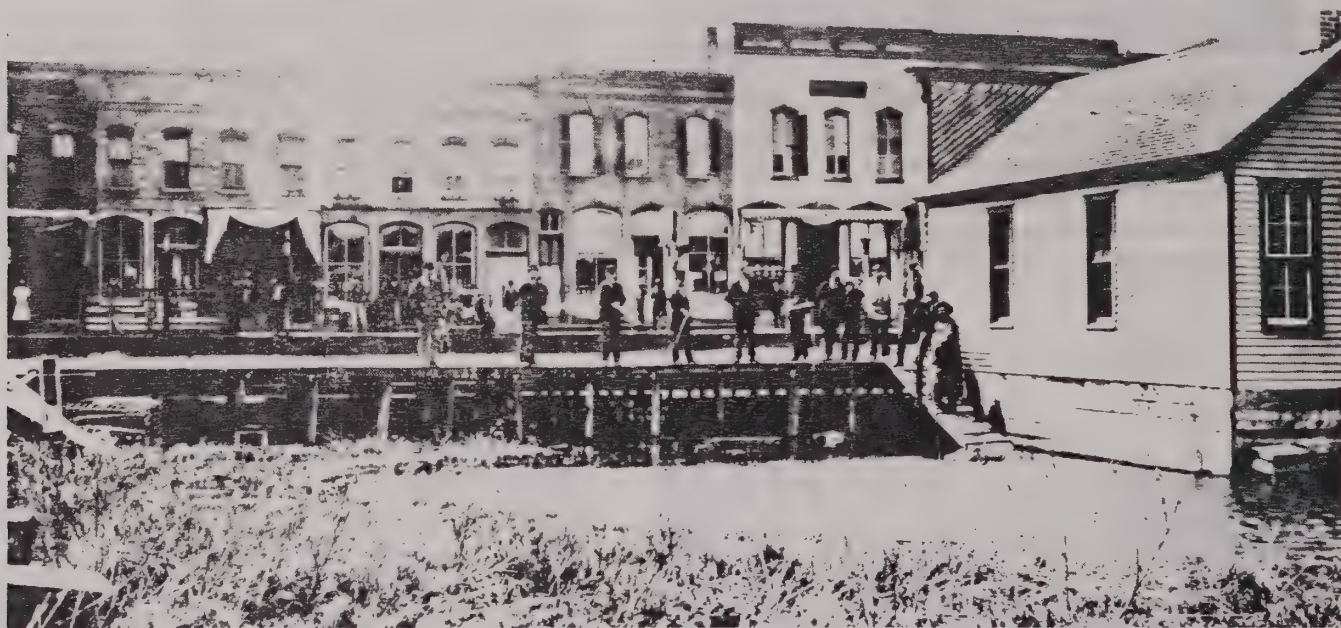
Same Corner in the 1930s



Fourth St. as it looks today.



The Fleager Building, located at corner of South Fourth and West Center Sts. The Bank, "Sheldon Enterprise" printing office, Drug Store and numerous offices were downstairs. The Fleager Opera House was on second floor.



"The Ole Fishin' Hole", corner of South Fourth and East Center Sts. The high board sidewalks, were built up like piers.



Same corner as it looks today. Where U.S. Highways 24 and 52 make turn at south end of Fourth St.



Mendenhall's Grocery, established in 1891. L. to R. — Jerry Mendenhall, Ned McCloud, standing in door with sack of flour, Ed Mendenhall. In door with book, Professor Bayne, school principal, and William Dunn.



Looking north, west side of business block in 1870s.



As it is today.

When West Main Street in Sheldon was the Main Business Block



The Thomas Thornhill Drug Store, A. M. Butler Grocery and Bakery and the Atwood Hardware Store, in the early 1860's. On pony at extreme left, Dora Thornhill, Lady seated at left, Mrs. Thornhill. Stores stood west of Big 4 tracks, on north side of West Main St. in the block where the homes of Mrs. Maude Kelleher and Paul Kaufman now stand. Mr. Thornhill was the grandfather of Mrs. Catherine McKeever Sampson and Mrs. Dora McKeever Hummer.



In the 1870's, east side of present business block, looking south from East Grove Street, where Curb Cafe and Robert Sproull's Insurance office now stand. It was covered with water most of the year, occupied by wild ducks in the spring and fall and skaters in the winter.



First Depot built at present location. It was destroyed by fire.



Early Depot, frame building, stood north of T.P.&W. tracks. Burned on an Easter Sunday morning. Second man from left with half sleeves, Charles Clawson.



Present Depot

The Years of 1910 - 11 In Memory of Former Residents

MR. WILLIAM HENRY FRASER

Supt. of the Sheldon Box Factory.

MR. MATT BELL

His half brother, Asst. Supt.

MR. JOHN BELL

His uncle, owner and president.

MRS. CLARA FRASER

Wife of Wm. Henry Fraser, now living in Lombard, Ill., soprano at Electric Theatre.

MRS. EMMA BELL

Wife of John Bell, now living in Chicago, pianist at the Electric Theatre. Mrs. Bell has two daughters, Ethel and Marjorie.

MR. MORRIS CONRAD FRASER

Conductor, Chicago and North Western Railroad, eldest son of three children. (Wilbur and Florence) of William and Clara, born here on January 17, 1911, now living in Lombard, Ill.

These were the happy years.

MORRIS C. FRASER

TO THE PEOPLE
of
SHELDON, ILLINOIS

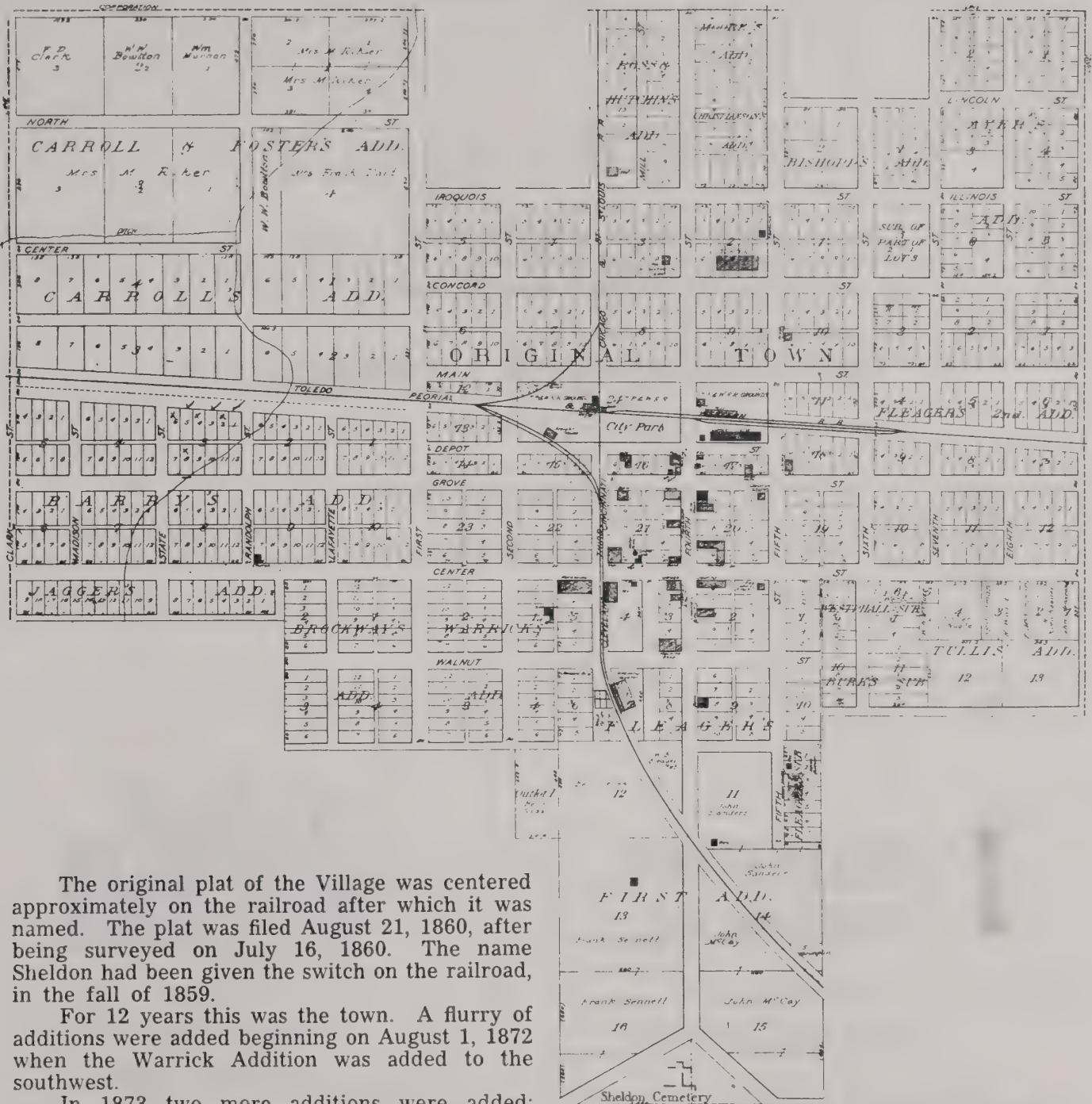
CONGRATULATIONS

I have lived with you through the last Half Century and know something of the progress you have made, shared with you in your thoughts, hopes, sorrows and joys, and unite with you on this occasion in celebration of your First Great Goal in your trek down the pathway of life toward that Great Unknown, for the want of a better name, we call — Eternity.

Gratefully Yours,

ELMER A. TAYLOR

THE VILLAGE OF SHELDON



The original plat of the Village was centered approximately on the railroad after which it was named. The plat was filed August 21, 1860, after being surveyed on July 16, 1860. The name Sheldon had been given the switch on the railroad, in the fall of 1859.

For 12 years this was the town. A flurry of additions were added beginning on August 1, 1872 when the Warrick Addition was added to the southwest.

In 1873 two more additions were added: Fleager's Addition to the south on May 6, and Tullis' Addition to the southwest on May 20. Later a part of Fleager's Addition was sub-divided and Burk's Sub-division was made on a part of the Tullis' Addition.

Two additions were made in 1874: Ayer's Addition May 5th on the northeast and Fleager's 2nd Addition on June 4 to the east.

In 1875 the town grew the most (in territory) when five additions were added: Carroll's Addition to the west on January 28; Barry's Addition, also to the west, on March 6; Jagger's Addition just south of Barry's on June 24; Westphal's Sub-division on October 28 of part of Tullis' Addition; and Bishopp's Addition to the northeast on October 28.

Carroll and Foster's Addition was added to the northwest on March 13, 1876. Other additions were the Ross and Hutchins and Moore Additions to the north and Brockway's Addition to the south. The Cemetery, part in the Village was platted and filed June 5, 1888. Schrieffer's Sub-division of lot 1, block 2 of Carroll and Foster's Addition was filed in 1957.

Reighert's Sub-division of lot 3 lays at the northeast corner of the original town. A Christenson addition was platted but never filed for record. Unplatted sections of the town are north of the Bishopp Addition, north of the original plat at the west side, and a small area west of Fleager's second division.

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SHELDON, ILLINOIS

SCHOOLS

From the beginning, the settlers of Sheldon township manifested an interest and lent their support to the establishment of schools. According to "Beckwith History" as early as 1850, Oliver P. Bookless taught several terms of a subscription school in a log building on the farm of Jesse Eastburn. At that time there were only a half dozen families living in the township.

Later, around 1856, Mr. Bookless taught a subscription school in a log house near his own home. The building was 12ft by 14ft and was located across the road from what was later known as the Lister's Point or West Union school.

Around 1860 Mrs. Elizabeth Waity, wife of Nelson Waity, furnished the building and taught a 3-month term for \$40.00. The building stood a little northeast of what was later the Hesperian school. The Waitys lived on the Waity homestead, now owned by Mrs. Nina Waity and sons, located on highway 24, west of town. Mrs. Waity rode horseback to and from school, taking her infant son, Harry, with her.

The first district school in Sheldon township was built in 1859 and took in most of the southern area. It was called "Possum Trot" and later the New Bethel school. The first teacher was Miss Sarah Darrough, later Mrs. Camper.

The first school house in Sheldon was a log structure and stood about where the road turns north at the end of East Concord street, near the Howard Slibeck home.

Mr. Orren Smith, who came with his parents, the William Smiths, in 1859 at the age of five years remembered going to school in that vicinity, but could not remember the teacher's name. He did remember the seven red haired Sheets girls who went to school at that time. There are no records to tell anything about this school.

The next school building was a small frame 21ft by 27 ft, built in 1861-62 and stood on the west side of the lot where the present grade school stands.

According to a diary kept by Mrs. Amy Mitchell, W. B. Fleager and Dr. S. B. Barry conceived the idea of raising funds and erecting a school building. They had the novel idea of attending tax sales at the county seat and bought lands until they accumulated \$400 as their profits in penalties and interest. This money was used to build the first frame school house in Sheldon.

The first teacher was a young lady, who later married Mr. Dan Ayres. She taught a successful term and although she had agreed to teach for \$20 a month the trustees paid her \$25 because she was 'worth it.'

In 1875 this building was moved with teams of horses across town, to its present location at 220 South Second street. It is in good condition and forms a small portion of the Ralph Harris home.

In 1876 the new school building was completed and a high school course was added. V. R. Niez was principal. The first class was graduated in 1878 with six members.

It was not until 1885 a 4-year high school course was adopted. From this time through the Gay Nineties, the progress of Sheldon's educational system was phenomenal.

In 1900 this building was removed and the erection of a brick structure was started. Cornerstone ceremonies for the school were held June 26, 1900. With the completion of this building, certain courses were added to the high school curriculum and the high school became accredited.

In 1917 the Presbyterian church was moved and the house next to it, formerly the home of 'Major' Robert Foster was removed, thus making a larger playground. Other major improvements have been made since then.

At an election in 1920 a high school district was approved and formed. In 1922 a site was agreed upon and a tract of land purchased west of the United Brethren Church.

In the spring of 1923 the taxpayers of Sheldon voted upon and accepted a bond issue of \$65,000 for a new school. Excavating was begun in August 1923. The building was dedicated August 29, 1924 and a few days later the doors were opened to receive its first students.

During the thirties there was a scarcity of teachers to teach rural schools.

In 1940 an election was held and the voters of the township voted to discontinue rural schools and provide transportation to bring country children into town. This movement was county-wide and the county school system was divided into units. Sheldon schools were designated as Unit 5.

Five buses were purchased and drivers hired.

In a short time the voters of Concord township, south of the Iroquois River petitioned into the Sheldon district and another bus was purchased.

The old country schools were abandoned, the buildings were sold and the land reverted back to the estates of the owners. Thus began the passing of an American Institution, without which our country could never have achieved the greatness it has today.

Soon it became apparent that the old buildings did not provide adequate class rooms. Initial plans were made in December 1952 for enlarging the high school buildings.

On November 7, 1953 voters approved a \$400,000 bond issue and contracts were signed in April 1954.

The principal feature of the new building is the gymnasium. It has a large seating capacity and is considered one of the best in the county. Among other new areas added were class rooms for the seventh and eighth grades, which made more room at the grade school. Hot lunch rooms were installed for both schools.

Sheldon District Unit 5 superintendent is Kenneth Stephens.

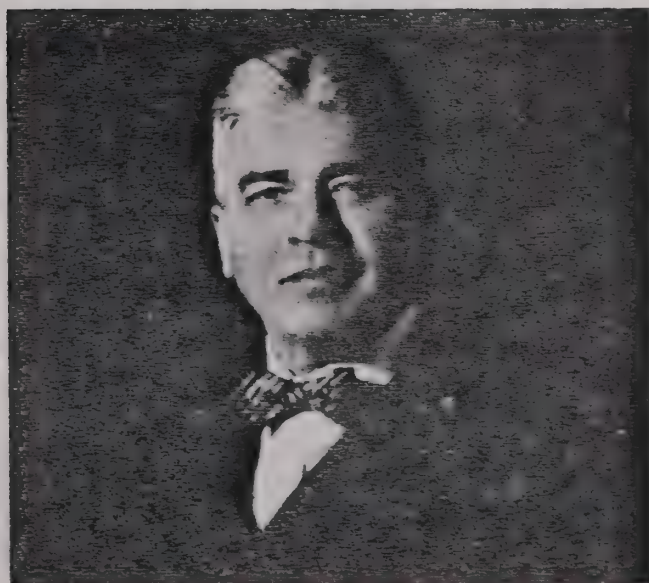
Grade school principal is Joseph E. Reynolds.

Sheldon High School Graduates listed in the current edition of "Who's Who in America" are:

Class of 1915—Dr. Ruth Caldwell Wright, Educator.

Class of 1928—Evron Maurice Kirkpatrick, Publisher.

Class of 1912—Harriet Wishnieff de Onis, rated as one of the best Spanish Translators in New York City.



Miss Zetta Gay Whitson, world famous violinist, graduated from Sheldon High School, class of 1902.

She made her debut with the Bluthner Orchestra, in Berlin, Germany. During her career she played at most of the Royal Courts in Europe.

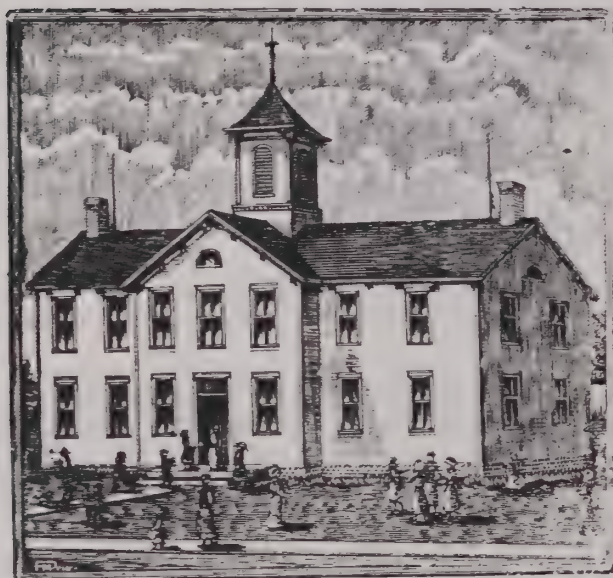
She passed away in California.

Dr. Elven J. Berkheiser, 1887-1958. Graduated from Sheldon High School, class of 1904.

Dr. Berkheiser was chief of the Orthopaedic Service at Presbyterian Hospital, Chicago, from 1933 to 1957. He taught orthopaedic surgery at Rush Medical College and Illinois University. He was affiliated with the Municipal Tuberculosis Sanitarium of Chicago. The United States Public Health Marine Hospital, consultant at Cook County and Children's Memorial Hospital. His wife, Mrs. Gladys Sykes Berkheiser survives. His sister Miss Vernie Berkheiser lives in Sheldon.

Miss Elizabeth Richardson, (Miss Lizzie) was honored on February 12, 1947 by a banquet and program celebrating 50 years of service as a teacher in Sheldon's Country and Town Schools. In that length of time she had taught 1,294. In many families three generations had gone to school to her. The "Lizzie Richardson Golden Anniversary Day" was written up in the February 24, issue of "Time" magazine. Through the efforts of B. D. Chapman, former Sheldonite, at that time with the "Life Magazines" Inc., the "Life" photographer took 176 pictures of the guest of honor and Sheldon community.

In Miss Lizzie's own words, "If I had it to do over again, I'd do the same thing. Children forget lots of what you taught them, but not the example you set for them." The example Miss Lizzie set, may be found in the "Golden Rule." She died in May 1958.



Old Country School

Lister's Point — Later Called West Union.

Sheldon Township Country Schools Closed in 1940.

Second Schoolhouse, built in 1876, sold in 1900 when present building was erected.





Can you recognize this country school house? We were unable to find anyone that could. While looking through cuts of old pictures at the Journal office, Mr. Artist Hill, editor, found this one. It fits the description of Sheldon's first school house, 1861-1875. All but the trees, if Dr. Bush set out the first shade trees in the spring of 1873, even in Sheldon's famous fertile soil, they could not have reached that height.

Grade School Built in 1900



High School Built in 1924



Addition to High School Built in 1956

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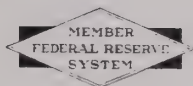
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SHELDON

ILLINOIS

CHURCHES

METHODISTS HOLD CENTENNIAL IN 1958

The first organized meetings of Methodists, in what has come to be the Sheldon charge, were held in 1858 in the Hesperian school. It was the meeting point for Methodist circuit riders. The Reverends D. Acherman, A. Irving and O. Smithers, all members of the Iroquois Circuit, rotated services every four weeks. The Iroquois Circuit included the church in Iroquois, Prairie Dell, Morris Chapel and others in Concord township.

July 27, 1861 at a meeting in Hesperian school, a decision was made to change the Circuit from Iroquois to Sheldon. In 1867 the first church was built in Sheldon. Later additions were made to the original building, to make room for organ, choir and overflow crowds.

In 1907 the eight room parsonage was built.

The present church of brick construction, designed by Architect Charles R. Clark of Sheldon, was built in 1927.

In 1933 the 75th anniversary of the church was celebrated under the direction of Reverend R. E. Buford, the resident pastor. In 1946 Carillonic Chimes were installed in the church tower. The chimes are played twice each week, Wednesday and Saturday evenings.

In 1947 an apse was designed and erected on the south side of the church to house the new Kilgen organ.

A bronze tablet bears this inscription — "This

organ is dedicated to the Glory of God and is presented to the Sheldon Methodist church in loving memory of Evelan Clark, Clarissa Ellen Watkins Clark and Mary Edith Clark by Charles R. Clark." An impressive dedication service was held on Sunday, February 29, 1948.

In 1955, Memorial windows of Art Glass, depicting significant events in the life of Christ were installed.

Sunday, September 14, 1958 a celebration commemorating the 100th Anniversary of the founding of the church was held.

Reverend Frank Deninger is the present pastor. Reese Bowton is Sunday School Superintendent.

FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST

The movement for a Christian church in Sheldon was started by Mrs. Fannie Romaine and Mrs. Finley Hopkins in September 1890. They attended a convention of the Illinois Christian Missionary society and requested an evangelist be sent to Sheldon. Accordingly a Mr. Will H. Hayden began a series of meetings in Fleager's Opera House in October 1890.

December 14, 1890, a Sunday school of over 100 members was organized and equipped. Fleager's Hall was secured for all regular services. In November 1891, Reverend E. B. Cross became the regular pastor. The church located at the corner of Fifth and Grove streets was completed and dedicated January 10, 1892.

This church was totally destroyed by fire January 19, 1930.



Methodist Church built in 1867.



First Methodist Church built in 1927

A new church was built the following summer and dedicated September 28, 1930.

This edifice has a brick exterior, full basement, complete with kitchen and dining room. At the present a building plan is in the making, to extend the church to the south, adding several Sunday school rooms.

A few years ago the name was changed from Christian Church to the First Church of Christ.

Reverend E. S. Worley was pastor for many years. Since retiring, Mr. and Mrs. Worley make their home in Sheldon.

The present pastor is Richard C. Wilson. Sunday School Superintendent is Olin McCutchan.



Church of Christ built in 1930.

Sunday School Class at Christian Church in 1915.



First row, L. to R.—Mr. and Mrs. David Smalley, Mr. and Mrs. John Deaner, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Potter, Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Wingard, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Dart, Mr. and Mrs. Warren Ewen, Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Hall, Mrs. Selina Enslen, Mrs. John Evans, Mrs. Mary Burgess, Mrs. Rose Bolling, Mr. A. V. Brockway.

Second row—Mr. and Mrs. Jones, Julia Ross, Mr. and Mrs. Will Ross, Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Haxby, Mr. and Mrs. William Doran, Rev. and Mrs. Ice, Mrs. Ice a minister, was teacher of the class, Mr. and Mrs. R. O. Smalley, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Mallat, Mr. and Mrs. Fred McEwan, Mr. and Mrs. Chas Fleming.

Third row—Mr. and Mrs. Norman White, Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Webster, Herschel Webster, Mrs. McGuire, Mrs. Sam Shuster, Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Goosey, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Runck, Mr. and Mrs. John Thompson, Mr. and Mrs. Smith, Mr. and Mrs. Jas. Best, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Haxby, Mr. David Haag.

Fourth row—Mrs. O. F. West, Karen Bigger (Hasel), Ruth McNealy, (Wedfbury), Mr. and Mrs. Lee Wilkinson, Mrs. Myrtle Renner, Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert Martin, Mrs. Joe Creel, Mrs. Claire, Paul Hoagland, Mrs. Omer Shreve, Lylie Morrison, Mrs. Rose Massing, Albert Burton, Mr. and Mrs. John Risley.

Fifth row—Mrs. Hendress, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Thompson, Mrs. Flora Bowen, Claud Johnson, Damie Bunnell (Haag), Arie Ewing (Putt), June Huston (Marrett) Lewis, Mrs. Musgrave, Harold Smalley, Rose Burton, Mrs. Troit Lucas, Mrs. Arthur Berry.

Back row—Dan Finelson, Mrs. Dan Morgan, John Snyder, D. L. Greenman, Mrs. Earl Newman, Harry Ewing, Mrs. Rose Wray, Mrs. Henry Just, Pearl Fetherling (Eastburn), Lloyd Sanderson, Pearl Overby (Allhands), four railroad employees, Henry Mundy, Isaac Hays, and Lyle Ewan.

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EVANGELICAL UNITED BRETHREN CHURCH

The first United Brethren organization was at Lister's Point, later known as West Union School. The group was formed in 1834 by Frederick Kenoyer, a circuit rider from Indiana, at a meeting held in the home of Jesse Eastburn.

The second United Brethren society was organized in 1850 at the Enslin School, by Reverend Jacob Kenoyer, son of Frederick Kenoyer. This was a small log cabin which stood in the front yard of the Albert Rosenberger farm, which is now owned by Mr. and Mrs. William Disosway. Regular meetings were held here.

On December 19, 1875 the present United Brethren Church was completed and dedicated by the Reverend J. W. Holt.

In 1900 the edifice was remodeled, an addition was added to the east side for pulpit and choir. The old windows were replaced with Cathedral glass.

In 1925 the building was again improved. A full basement was added, containing kitchen and assembly room. Other improvements have been made, but the original ceiling, in the main part of the sanctuary remains the same. It was made by hand by Elvin and Melvin Light, local carpenters, and is considered a work of art.

The United Brethren Church at Eastburn station was constructed in 1896 and was in existence until 1925 when it united with the Sheldon congregation. In 1928 the building was dismantled and the lumber was used to improve the parsonage in Sheldon. The land was returned to the Eastburn estate.

November 16, 1946, at a meeting of the Evangelical Church and the Church of the United Brethren, held in Johnstown, Pa., a union of the two churches was consummated, giving to it the name of the Evangelical United Brethren Church.

L. Zigler was the first minister of the church in Sheldon. The present minister is the Reverend J. A. Smith. Sunday School superintendent is Clayton Gillfillan.



Eastburn United Brethren Church. Built in 1896 — united with Sheldon church in 1925. Church dismantled in 1928.



Evangelical United Brethren Church, built in 1875.

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FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

The Sheldon Presbyterian Church was organized in 1886. Prior to that time the Reverend E. P. Morse of Watseka, had held services in Sheldon every two weeks. On October 29, 1886 a meeting was held in the Methodist church of Sheldon for the purpose of organizing a Presbyterian church.

The newly formed congregation was invited by the Methodists to use their church on alternate Sundays. This arrangement was followed for three or four years, later meetings were held in the schoolhouse.

In March 1894, Reverend L. P. Cain became the permanent pastor. Negotiations were completed for the erection of a church building, located on the present grade school playground, between the old schoolhouse and the home of "Major" Robert Foster.

The church was completed and dedicated December 23, 1894.

In 1895, Reverend Cain dedicated a chapel at Effner. The membership of the Sunday School at Effner exceeded one hundred. About 1915 this church was abandoned and most of the members transferred to the Sheldon Presbyterian Church.

After several years a larger playground was needed for the school. In 1917 land was purchased from Mrs. P. T. Christenson. The house which is the present manse was included in the purchase. The ground on which the church first stood was sold to the board of education.

The church was moved, remodeled with brick exterior, an addition was built on the east, adding two class rooms. A basement was put under all the



First Presbyterian Church, moved and remodeled 1918.



Presbyterian Church built in 1894.

building, providing a kitchen, dining room and extra class rooms.

It was dedicated February 10, 1918, Reverend L. P. Cain returned for the service.

The fiftieth anniversary of the church was observed in 1936.

At the present, they have a student resident pastor, Ward C. Patton.

Mrs. D. E. Light is Sunday School Superintendent.

CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE

In the early summer of 1950, Reverend and Mrs. Ted Holstein, Chester Kemper, Robert Morgan, and a number of others from Olivet College began a tent meeting in Sheldon. Later services were held in the Town Hall. In August 1950 a lot was purchased from Miss Lily Reynolds and the present church was erected on West Center St.

Later a parsonage was purchased on West Iroquois St.

The present pastor is Reverend Max Snider.



Church of the Nazarene built in 1950.

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TOWNSHIP AND ROADS

Townships are the largest subdivisions of land run out by the United States surveyors. Altho theoretically each township is six miles square and contains 23,400 acres, this is otherwise made impossible by one of four causes. Thus we often find irregular townships. Sheldon Township is one of the exceptional cases due to its eastern section line not falling exactly upon the Illinois-Indiana state line. As a result it contains an additional 2000 acres spread in a band approximately one half mile wide and six miles long.

The township was named after a village within its limits and was formerly embraced within the Concord Township area. Sheldon Township was organized April 7, 1868 by the election of the following officers: supervisor, Dr. L. B. Brown; town clerk, D. W. Ayers; assessor, Parker T. Eastburn; collector, Owen King; magistrates, Robert Caldwell and D. W. Ayers; highway commissioners, A. B. Caldwell, Warren Ewen and Jacob Wingard; constables, Seth Burdick and John Darrough. The number of votes polled at the organization was 99 and the assessed valuation of property was about \$120,000. At the present time the registered voters number 1122 and the last assessment reached \$8,285,062.

Also embraced within the township, is the village of Haxby, located on route 24, at the Indiana State line. Located at Effner, just west of the Illinois State line is a State weigh station for checking trucks.

In the southwest portion of the township is Darrow Station. It consists of the Farmers Elevator and the Darrow Christian Church.

During the early days, the condition of the roads depended upon the season of the year. During the winter freeze and summer dry spell they were merely an annoying necessity. In the spring and fall they were impassable. Many were the tales told of the various methods resorted to during the rainy seasons to reach destinations by choosing the highways. Gradually improvements were made. The first road within the township was one skirting the timber in the northwest portion. It led to Chicago via Iroquois, following the old Hubbard Trail. Another early road was from Lafayette to Chicago via Iroquois. It passed through the eastern side of the township. Owing to the late settlement of the prairies there were few permanent roads until the turn of the century.

By 1880 the township had roads laid out on all the section lines and excepting a few miles, extending its entire length. The road to Effner

was voted in 1904. Six years later (1910) the roads running south of town were constructed. The north corporation line road was improved about the same time.

Bond issues were floated for these improvements. Sheldon township was the first community in Illinois to follow this procedure. The contract for the concrete pavement from Sheldon west to Watseka was let in April 1924 and work was begun that spring. The opening of the road thru Sheldon was held in July 1925. Since then improvements have been made steadily until at the present time Sheldon township has 64 miles of all-weather roads. It was the first in the county to use the "black top" type road construction.

During the early days of the township the roads were maintained by a commission of three citizens. About 1912 this system was changed and one commissioner was elected. Loren Hagen is the present commissioner.

POSTAL SERVICE

During the early pioneer days of the territory, mail was delivered to the settlements by riders from the already established villages. Soon after Mr. W. B. Fleager established his store in the village in 1860, he was appointed postmaster and served in that capacity for some time. For a number of years the postmasters were usually businessmen and the post office was located in their place of business. Finally special accommodations were needed for the care of the increasing volume of mail and the postal department rented a building which met its needs in a more efficient manner. In 1956 a modern building was erected in Sheldon for the express purpose of housing the post office.

Free rural delivery was organized in 1896 by



Charles Bussert first Rural Mail Carrier in Iroquois County, 1901.

THE SHELDON JOURNAL

A Weekly Newspaper



**Serving the Sheldon Community
Continuously for 80 Years!**



Commercial Printing



ARTIST HILL, Publisher

the United States Postal Service. On May 15, 1901, the first rural delivery route in Iroquois County was established at Sheldon. The route covered 25 miles of unimproved roads. Along this route were 125 houses, represented by 110 boxes. Each patron was to provide himself with a box and a steel post upon which it was to be mounted. If he so desired, he could equip his box with a lock for which both he and the mail carrier must have a key. Mr. Charles Bussert was hired as the first carrier over this route at a salary of \$500 per annum. He made daily trips, except Sunday leaving the post office in Sheldon immediately after the arrival of the 11:57 A.M. train from the North. Mr. Bussert made this trip in an enclosed horse drawn "mail wagon" equipped with a small stove for the winter months. He also carried his lunch and ate it in some farmer's yard while allowing his team to rest and feed. Often he was invited into the farm home for a hot dinner while his horses were rested in the farmer's barn.

Soon two other routes were started from the Sheldon Office and Sheldon and a part of Concord Townships were served most efficiently. With the establishment of the rural free delivery routes, two substations, Effner and Eastburn, were discontinued. Today two routes cover the same territory, the carriers travelling by automobile over modern, improved, all-weather roads.

NEWSPAPERS IN SHELDON

On March 10, 1871, the first newspaper published in Sheldon was issued by J. B. Spotswood and E. A. Burns. The paper was printed in Kentland, Ind., and was a six-column weekly independent newspaper, "The Sheldon Courier." It was liberally supported but lasted only a few months.

The second Sheldon newspaper, "The Sheldon Enterprise", was issued on December 31, 1874, by H. R. Fields and H. L. Henry. The first copy of the Enterprise was sold at auction to Joe Bell who paid \$2.50 for the "special copy." They sold it to D. J. Eastburn on Feb. 1, 1877, and was later moved to Watseka.

The Sheldon Journal was established in 1879, and is now in its 80th year of publication. As the 20th century began it was operated by A. J. Sargent. In early 1900 W. H. Overhue began a long period as publisher, which he relinquished in 1922 upon his appointment to a position in the Government printing office in Washington, D. C. From

1922 until 1935 the Journal was published by A. J. Hawkes. A part of September of 1935 the Journal was owned by William Farsworth who immediately sold it to Allan B. Augustin. On June 1, 1936, the present publisher, Artist Hill, took over the newspaper and has operated it longer than any other publisher.

SHELDON BUILDING AND LOAN ASSOCIATION

Seventy years ago a small group of men felt the need of a home loaning company and, in accordance with the provisions of the Act of July 1, 1879, made application to the State for permission to raise funds by the issuing and selling of capital stock in the amount of \$500,000.00 and to name the company the Sheldon Building and Loan Association.

On January 17th, 1889, a license was issued to Barton Bishopp (father of Ben B. Bishopp), Robert W. Foster, Joseph W. Robinson, Robert Wilkenson, David M. Wheat and Frank C. Warne, as Commissioners to open books for subscription for capital stock.

After two hundred shares of capital stock had been subscribed by the citizens of Sheldon, Secretary of State Isaac Pearson was petitioned and a charter granted.

On January 25, 1889, a meeting of the stockholders was called by the commissioners and was held in the Town Hall, for the purpose of electing directors and adopting By-Laws. The following directors were elected: James W. Eastburn, George W. Eastburn, Jr., Samuel M. Thompson, David M. Wheat, R. B. Myers, Robert Wilkenson, Barton Bishopp, Robert M. Foster and Joseph M. Robinson.

For a good many years the office of the Sheldon Building and Loan was in the old frame building where the North Texaco station now stands. To notify the stockholders that collection day was at hand, a red flag was hung out in front of the building.

The present board of directors is as follows: Cliff L. Clark, Fritz U. Rougk, Ernest M. Sipe, Theron Gullion, Carl D. Webster, James E. Eagle, Catherine Sampson, Louise Jensen and Margaret H. Harris.

The 70-year-old Sheldon Building and Loan Association is the third oldest continuous business institution in Sheldon.

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Incorporated February 2, 1889

JANUARY 25, 1889

Directors

James H. Eastburn
George W. Eastburn
Samuel W. Thompson
David M. Wheat
Robert Wilkenson
Barton Bishopp
Robert W. Foster
Joseph W. Robertson
R. B. Myres

**Serving
this
Community
for
Seventy Years**

JANUARY, 1959

Directors as of January 1st

Cliff L. Clark
Fritz U. Rougk
Margaret H. Harris
Ernest E. Sipe
Theron Gullion
Catherine J. Sampson
Louise H. Jensen
Carl D. Webster
James E. Eagle

Happy Birthday

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WATER SUPPLY

One of the earliest village improvements to be attempted was the establishment of a central water supply. A well was drilled near the center of the business district in 1898. This well never yielded as much as 100 gallons per minute.

In the summer of 1914 the village secured a 90-day option on one of Robert Ross' lots at the old cereal mill location, on Iroquois street. The water secured from this well was a good quality, free from minerals, which gave the old well water its objectionable taste. The lot was then purchased by the village, and a pumping station was established. The well was drilled to a depth of 130 feet, the yield being about the same as that of the old well.

Drilling was started for a new well, west of the pump house, in August 1917. Water was found at a depth of 241 feet and the old 1914 well was abandoned.

In 1922 the old original well was repaired and cased to a depth of 1157 feet. In the fall of 1923 new water mains were put in the alley at the rear of the business houses and the old main was cut off. During the preceding years the main along Fourth street had burst frequently and the street had been dug up so many times that it had become the roughest in town. Also, the new cement highway was to be on this street.

At an election on April 20, 1926, a bond issue of \$7,000 for an 80,000 gallon reservoir for the city water supply, was carried by a vote of 217 to 88. A centrifugal pump was installed, run by a 7½ horsepower motor and capable of pumping 50 gallons per minute into the water tower.

In 1928 the water situation, which had been unsatisfactory for several years, became a matter of grave concern. The water in the north well had been declared unfit for drinking purposes unless boiled and the supply from the south well was not sufficient to meet the needs of a community the size of Sheldon. A special election was held on September 27, 1928 on a \$5,000 bond issue for a new well to be drilled near the old well on Iroquois street. The issue carried by a vote of 155 to 55.

The official test of the new well took place April 19, 1929. The well was 168 feet deep and yielded a flow of more than 100 gallons per minute. A well house was built with a cement floor and pumping machinery was installed. A new main was laid along the Big Four right-of-way to the reservoir.

Since that time the water supply has been, with the exceptions of minor interruptions, consistently satisfactory.



Sheldon Telephone Office in 1905. L. to R.— Charles Christenson, owner; Ethel Burroughs (Christenson), Anna Rose (Shrimplin), Isabelle Rose, worked 33 years in central office, and Ethel Swern.

TELEPHONES

SHELDON TELEPHONE CO.

The first country telephone lines were built south of Sheldon, by Orlin Julien and Joseph Nagele. Later they built lines into town.

At one time there were two telephone companies. In April of 1904, Charles Christenson bought the Sheldon Phone Co. and in 1907 the Central Union Telephone Co. consolidating the two. His brother, George, became a partner in 1907, selling his interest to Charles in September 1935. On August 3, 1937 the business was sold to the Illinois Commercial Telephone Co., a division of the General Telephone Corp. The name was changed to the General Telephone Co. of Illinois, and they still own it and have made many modern improvements.

Do You Remember?

April 1927, Sheldon's first licensed amateur Radio Station, listed as 9EDA-Sheldon. Towers and station were built by Snow brothers, Harold and Gordon, at their home on North Fourth St.

May 19, 1938 - First Air Mail. Sheldon had 14 lbs. while Watseka had 8 and Milford 7. Mrs. Elsie M. Snow was postmistress. Pilot and co-pilot of Air Mail plane, were Harold Dawson of Hoopes-ton and Fred S. Disosway of Sheldon.

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SHELDON

ILLINOIS



All that was left of Sheldon's Electric Light Plant after the explosion September 18, 1901. Clarence E. Pawley and Frank Slavik lost their lives. L. D. Snow was badly injured.

ELECTRICITY SHELDON ELECTRIC LIGHT PLANT

The Sheldon Electric Light Plant was built in 1897, by the George Pawley family. The electric service was from a steam generating plant, which was started up just before sunset and ran until midnight and in the winter time they ran about two hours in the early morning.

On Wednesday evening, September 18, 1901, during the Street fair, at 5:32 P. M., the boiler blew up demolishing the building and killing Clarence E. Pawley, one of the proprietors who was inside of the building operating the machinery. Mr. Frank Slavik, agent for the Traders Fire Insurance Company and L. D. Snow, father of Gordon H. Snow, had been talking with Mr. Pawley and had just stepped outside of the building. Mr. Slavik lived until the following Sunday afternoon. Mr. Snow was badly injured but recovered after some time.

George Pawley rebuilt the Plant and operated it until he sold it some years later.

The Central Illinois Utilities Company, a subsidiary of Middle West Utilities Company, purchased the electric property in Sheldon in 1913 and operated the utility through 1919. In that year the Central Illinois Public Service Company purchased the capital stock of the Central Illinois Utilities Company. Since January 1, 1920 the CIPS Co. has furnished electric service in the Village of Sheldon.

THE SHELDON VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

The Sheldon Volunteer Fire Department was organized on December 13, 1898. By August, 1900 there were eighteen members fully equipped with rubber coats, boots and helmets. Officers of the company at this time were: W. H. Somerville, chief marshal; T. J. Baldwin, B. M. Ingalls, and W. Bishopp. Their apparatus included a hook and ladder wagon, hose cart and 750 feet of 2½ in. hose. With the pressure from the water tower, water could be thrown to a height of sixty feet. These were hand drawn vehicles, and when the fire whistle blew the firemen had to pull them to the fire, or if one of the four or five draymen was available at the time he drove his wagon to the Fire-hall, and the firemen crawled in and away they went to the fire pulling their equipment behind the dray. The town was divided into four wards by the two railroads and numbered from one to four. The number of whistle toots given at the end of the alarm was the ward where the fire was.

The Sheldon Volunteer Fire Department was the first on record in the State to own its own building and paraphernalia, being incorporated and entirely independent. It was supported to some extent by foreign insurance companies having agencies in Sheldon, who were taxed two per cent of the premiums. This amounted in 1900 to about \$150 a year.



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CHAMPAIGN, ILLINOIS



First Volunteer Fire Department, 1900; L. to R.—Tom Baldwin, Ted Minkley, Charlie Cassell, W. A. James, Frank Bishopp, Dell Clark, Allen (Deac) DeHart, Will Sharpe, Jerry Mendenhall, Frank (Toot) Jones, Clem Butler, Marion Brockway, Geo. Christenson, Herb Belding, Jay Jones, Brad Ingalls, on hose cart W. H. Somerville, fire chief.

In July, 1908 the fire department purchased from John Bell, the lot where the Secrest building had stood. Here they erected a building large enough for all of their equipment. There was a sufficient amount of money in the treasury to pay for the lot; the building was paid for by subscription. It was finished in December of 1908. The size was 24 feet by 40 feet, with twelve foot ceiling. Several years later an addition of 40 or 50 feet was added to the east end of the building.

In 1913 the Town purchased a Chemical engine and turned it over to the Fire Department to use. It consisted of two large chemical tanks on a cart with about 150 feet of hose. It was a very useful piece of equipment at this time and the firemen used it for a good many years.

In February 1919 the Fire department received their new Republic motor fire truck. This truck proved to be rather cumbersome and slow as it had solid rubber tires. During the following August the Department bought Scott Ross' National car and converted it into a chemical and ladder truck. Several years later they purchased a Chevrolet truck and transferred the equipment from the National to it.

The next addition to the Fire Department was the 1½ ton Reo Speed Wagon fire truck purchased in the summer of 1928. This was paid for by lottery. Tickets were sold for fifty cents each and the holder of the lucky number, Franz Lameck, won on Chrysler automobile.

An election was held on August 16, 1941 to see if the people in Sheldon and Sheldon township wished to form a fire district. The vote was favorable. Several years later part of the south end of

Concord Township petitioned into the district.

On November 14th, 1944 the trustees of the Fire District decided to buy a new American La-France 500 gallon pumper with a 200 gallon water supply tank. Due to the war this was not delivered until April 1946.

During the winter of 1950-51 a water tank truck with a capacity of 1550 gallons was added to the equipment. It was fitted with a spray on the front to be used in putting out grass fires.

In 1952 the people of the community took up a special collection of \$1,500, \$450 of this coming from the regular community fund. With this they purchased the Sheldon Community Emergency Unit, consisting of a Resuscitator-Inhalator, oxygen tanks and a convenient vehicle to transport it in. This was turned over to the Firemen to operate, each year money from the Community Fund is allowed for the expense of the operations.

The last large piece of equipment added came on April 13th, 1954 when the new American La-France 750 gallon pumper with a 500 gallon water supply tank arrived in Sheldon.

Officers of the Fire department are: Harold W. Marketto, Chief; Loran S. Hagan, Assistant Chief; James E. Eagle, Assistant Chief; Theron W. Gullion, Secretary-treasurer. Trustees: Fritz Rougk, Gordon H. Snow, and Clayton C. Christenson.

We are proud of our Fire Department and the work they have done. For the size of our village we think we have one of the best fire departments in eastern Illinois and we do not take second place to many larger cities.

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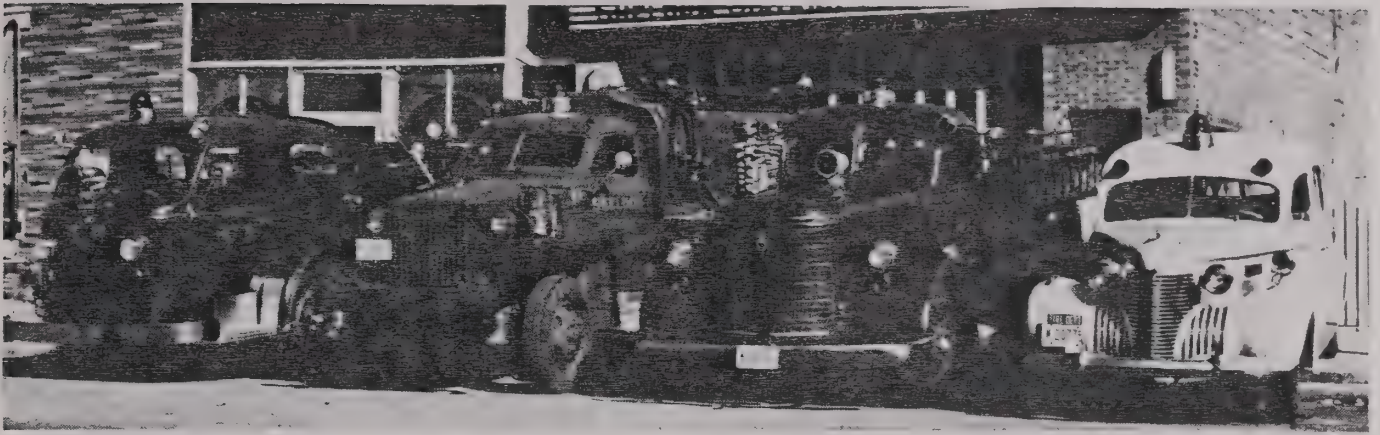
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SHELDON, ILLINOIS

SHELDON'S DISTRICT FIRE DEPARTMENT



L. to R.—Latest American La France 750 gallon pumper; Tank Truck, holds 1550 gallons of water; American La France, 500 gallon pumper; Ambulance, equipped with oxygen and emergency equipment, purchased and maintained by Sheldon Community Fund.

Life Members, with 25 years of service—Gordon Snow, Fritz Rougk, Walter McEwan, Arch Brady, Frank Hoagland, Scott Mason, A. K. Hasel, Harold Musgrave and Clayton Christenson.

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On Your 100th Birthday

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First motorized Fire Truck, solid rubber tires, 1919; L. to R.—Brad Ingalls, Bill Graves, Tom Baldwin, Jim Pruit, John Amos, Tom Culligan, Dick Baker, Orlie Julien, Scott Mason, Tom Renner, P. W. Miner, (at wheel), Lafe Mitchell, Frank Bishopp, Charlie White, Henry Strickler, Geo. Christenson, Guy Marvin and Elmer Hopkins.



Present Fire Department—Clayton Christenson, Ernest Glasgow, Fred Rougk, Gordon Snow, Tom Rice, Fritz Rougk, Geo. Myers, Jr., W. G. McEwan, Lester Davenport, Jack Reynolds, Jock Marketto, Fire Chief, Loren Hagan and Jim Eagle, Assistant Fire Chiefs, Chuck Trudeau, Jim Perrone, Glen Hiltz, Jack Hamm, Arch Brady, Reed Conner, trustee, Frank Hoagland and Scott Mason.

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R. C. Darrough, groceries, Florence Reighart; Mrs. Rollings, dressmaker, Gertie Thornill; Brokaw & Son, druggists, Minnie Gibbons; R. B. Myers, boot and shoes, Nettie Rogers; Sheldon Planing Mill, (W. Y. Clark), Minnie Clark; W. G. Landes, jeweler, Rosamond Bush; M. Ingalls, groceries, Bertha Anderson; Welsh House, Jennie Jones, Robert Foster, furniture, Mary Irwin; G. S. Hummer, hardware, Helen Dillion; Snow & Watkins, bankers, Bertha Kuntz; A. Gilmore, books and stationery, Hattie McCloud; The Sheldon News, Helen Anderson; L. T. Hutchins & Co., Blanche Hardesty; B. Christenson, meat market, Laura Weems; Marceau Bros., blacksmiths, Lala Just; A. Patterson, groceries, Cora Strickler; Sheldon Brick & Tile Co., Cora Julian; Sheldon Engine Works, Minnie Rogers; Miss Dora Imes, dressmaker, Myrtle Hutchins; Wm. West, plasterer, Elroy LaMotte; W. A.

Turner & Son, druggists, Minnie Wood.

N. Ducharme, barber, Wilda Hopkins; Wilkinson & Eastburn, bankers, Olie Robins; A. E. Weeks, jewelry, Zetta Whitson; G. A. Matthews & Co., groceries, Mary Anderson; Perfection Paper-Bag Holder Co., Lelia DeHart; C. H. Davis, shoemaker, Katie Dunn; A. Cassell, dry goods, Rosa Dunn; I. N. Strickler, blacksmith, Winnie Strickler; M. Ingalls, boots and shoes, Laura Hutchins; Sheldon Journal, Lillian Stickney; Brockway, photography, Jennie Wood; A. E. Weeks, dry goods, Lillie Van Natta; John Glass, lumber and coal, Fannie Burgess; G. H. Gay & Co., dry goods, Belle Smith; Boda Witman, well-digger, Minnie Witman; Butlers, bakers and confectioners, Nellie Buckley; A. Cassell, groceries, Ida Matthews.

A. E. Weeks, groceries, Mildred Dowling; Foster House, Winnie Brockway; M. Ingalls, dry goods, Maud Reighart; A. E. Weeks, furnishing goods, May Stickney; Dunn Hotel, Grace Dunn; A. M. Culver, hardware, Ella Clark; Pretty, Prosperous Sheldon, Levada Crouch; Dorn, tailor, Grace Glass.

Seniors, Carl Turner, James Irwin, Harry Bishop and Sam Potter served as ushers. Entertainment was furnished by Freddie Burch and Miss Vira Babcock, violin duet; operetta, Miss Edith Myers, Miss Netta Butler, B. M. Ingalls and W. G. Landess. Miss Nellie Brown was at the piano.



A Typical Scene of Yesteryear

In rummaging through old pictures at the Journal Office, we found this one which we thought quite interesting. It presents a scene of "days gone forever". We do not know when the picture was taken, but the depot is evidently one of the old ones which burned. The depot houses the offices of the TP&W Railroad and the N. Y. C. Railroad.

Of course, we never see steam engines in this area anymore. They gave way to the diesel engine

several years ago. The tower, which housed the mechanism controlling the switches, burned in 1953. The company decided not to rebuild the tower. In the tower the switches had been operated by hand levers. Now semi-automatic signals with electrically-controlled switches are operated from the depot. This system is installed in the NYC office and controls both railroads. The telegraph operator for many years handled Western Union messages, but this service was discontinued.

Day After the Chatsworth Wreck

From the "Diary" of Mrs. Amy Mitchell, mother of Mrs. Mildred Hardesty, we learn, that business in Sheldon was at a virtual stand still the day after the "Chatsworth Wreck", August 11, 1887, the worst wreck in the history of the T. P. and W. Railroad. Most of the population was at the depot, where trains were re-routed over the Big 4 to Chicago. Many of them carried the injured and dead from the wreck.

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This Centennial Book was Produced in the Commercial Printing Department
of the Watseka Republican.

ELEVATORS

Sheldon, small by numbers but great by crops, nestled in the heart of the corn belt, has one hundred years of abundance to its credit. Being rated in the top five townships, in fertility of soil, in the United States, grain storage has been a prime factor in its development.

The "double crib", an integral part of every farmstead, takes care of part of it. The township also has commercial storage for over two and one-half million bushels of grain, most of it located within the city limits.

Three railroads through the township, The Milwaukee Road; The New York Central and the T.P. and W. provide excellent shipping facilities by rail. In later years, large trucks have also come into use.

The First Steam Elevator in Sheldon was built by W. B. Fleager in 1870. It stood on the north side on the T. P. and W. tracks, between First and Second Sts., where the D-X bulk station is located.



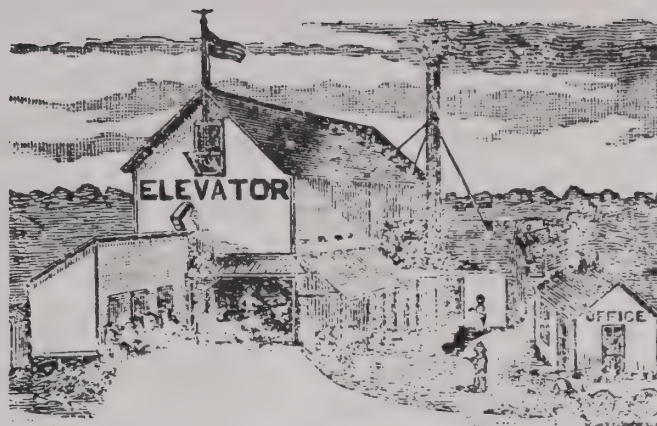
Bishopp Hominy Co.

The Bishopp Hominy Co. was organized in 1881 by Barton Bishopp, who was president from that time until his death in 1913.

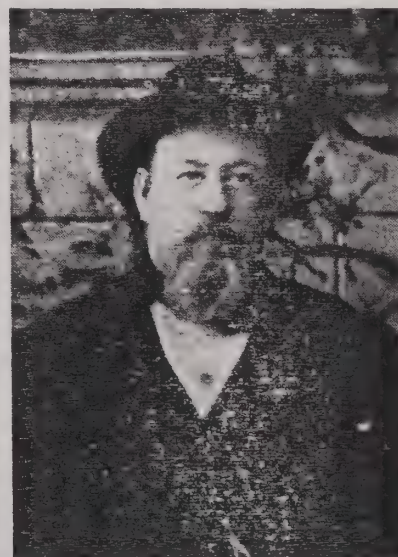
In 1916 the old elevator was torn down and the following year a new structure was built, having a capacity of 40,000 bushels. W. F. Bishopp managed the business until 1923.

In 1945 it was purchased by the Farmer's Co-operative Elevator.

It is interesting to note, three generations of Bishopps have been in the grain business: Barton, Ben and Barton J. Six generations have lived in Sheldon since 1854: Edward B., Barton, Ben, Barton J., Jay and Jimmy Bishopp.



The first Steam Elevator, 1870. Made from a steel engraving on a business card, the card read—"Sheldon, Illinois Elevator, A. Patmor, general manager."



Alfred Patmor, Manager of Sheldon's first steam elevator. He was the father of Dr. F. D. Patmor and Mrs. Emma Clawson, grandfather of Mrs. Maude Kelleher.



Sheldon's largest fire, 'Big' Elevator burning. December 17, 1915. Only the nine fire proof tanks remained unharmed.

**Many Happy Returns to Sheldon
Residents on this 100th Anniversary**

CARL BRAZEL

**Plastering Contractor
WATSEKA, ILLINOIS**

**First in Quality
Fairest in Prices
Fastest in Service**

COMPLIMENTS



**196 N. Dearborn
KANKAKEE, ILLINOIS**

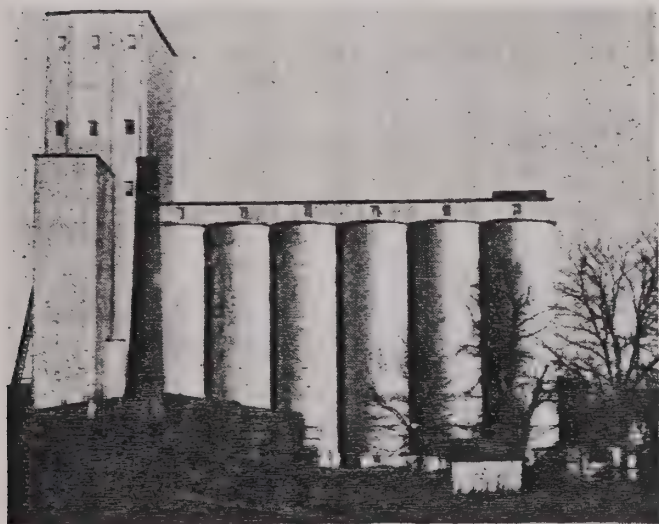
The Norris Grain Co.

In 1876, John D. Watkins and his father, Jonathan Watkins, opened a grain, coal and lumber business. Later in 1882, J. D. sold his interests to his brother Charles. The business formed the nucleus of the Cleveland Grain Co.

In 1903 a mammoth storage elevator was constructed and in 1908 nine fireproof tanks were added, with a capacity of 220,000 bushels, making it the largest on the Big Four railroad between Chicago and Cincinnati.

On December 17, 1915 the elevator was totally destroyed by fire, only the storage tanks remained unharmed. The following year, 1916, a new elevator was constructed, with a total capacity of 1,250,000 bushels. The Cleveland Grain Co. discontinued operations in 1924.

The Big Four leased the elevator to the Shaffner Grain Co. which operated it for ten years. In 1934 the Bartlett Frazier Co. purchased the business, which they sold to the Norris Grain Co. in 1939. The Norris Grain Co. has operated it since, making many improvements. Herman H. Thun Sr. has been manager since January 1937.



West view of Norris Grain Co. as it is today.



Eastburn Elevator

Allen Miner Eastburn built the first elevator at Eastburn Station in 1891. Later the present elevator was built. It has a capacity of 9,000 bushels. The present manager is Harry B. Eastburn.

The Sheldon Farmer's Co-operative Elevator

During the winter of 1896-97, a company of farmers of Sheldon community organized, and on February 2, 1897 started in business as the Sheldon Elevator Co. Robert Caldwell disposed of his grain interests to the new company and an elevator was purchased from P. Risser. The amount of capital raised was \$46,000. The first corn was bought at 16¢ a bushel and the first oats at 14¢.

Few communities had tried such a venture and at first the infant industry received very little cooperation. The attitude soon changed, however, and in 1901 the old elevator was too small and the present elevator was built and paid for out of the profits of the company.

In 1915 the company bought the W. T. McCray elevator at Effner, and in 1923 it was built and enlarged. In 1937 the new office building was erected and the old one was converted into a seed house.

In 1945 the Sheldon Farmer's Co-operative purchased the Bishopp Elevator.

They have added a large storage tank, two steel tanks; warehouses for fertilizers and feeds. In 1958 they added the Farm Store.

They now have a capacity of 325,000 bushels of grain. Mr. W. W. Wilson was the first manager. Mr. E. R. Settle was the first president.

J. D. Worsham was manager 39 years. Mr. Howard Slibeck has been manager since 1952.



Elevator built in 1908. Largest on Big 4 between Cincinnati and Chicago. Burned in 1915.



Employees of Cleveland Grain Co.—Loading terminal about 1908—L. to R.—Tom Clark, Charles Clawson, Alva Webster, Robert Colvin, Jap Stone, unidentified, John Bonnett, Bill Sharp, Bill Barnes, unidentified, and George Sampson.

CENTENNIAL

Congratulations

WHEN IN SHELDON STOP AT

the

SHELDON MOTEL

MR. AND MRS. PAUL HUSS, *Owners*

Routes 24 and 52 — Phone 69

SHELDON

ILLINOIS



Sumner Elevator, Sheldon's newest and most modern.

The Sumner Elevator

The Sumner Elevator, Sheldon's newest and most modern was built in 1950. The main elevator consists of eight concrete tanks, plus the tower tank. It is equipped with dryers and the most modern machinery for the handling of grain. An additional storage quonset was built in 1955, the office in 1956. The storage capacity is approximately 500,000 bushels. It is owned by the Sumner Corporation. Edward Sumner, III is the manager, Gayle Fielding, office manager.



Main branch of the Sheldon Farmers Co-operative Elevator Co. It is the oldest organization of its kind in the State of Illinois.

Darrow Farmers Elevator

A group of neighborhood farmers organized and purchased the Herron-Patterson Grain Co. located at Darrow Station. It was incorporated as the Darrow Farmers Elevator Co.

This building burned in 1915, a new one of modern design was completed in 1916.

Mr. George Brainard was the first manager. Since that William Wolverton, Medwin Warrick, 30 years, and Maurice Dowling, the present manager.



Board of directors, and wives, of the Darrow Farmers Elevator, 1950.

L. to R.—Mrs. Silas Hoagland, Mr. Hoagland, Mrs. John Gillfillian, Mr. Gillfillian, Mrs. Cecil Julien, Mr. Julien, Mrs. Gus Johnson, Mr. Johnson, Mrs. H. D. Bowles and Mr. Bowles. They had all celebrated their fiftieth wedding anniversaries.

Congratulations

SHELDON

on your

CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION



WATSEKA LODGE 1791

B. P. O. ELKS

WATSEKA

ILLINOIS

SCENES FROM CYCLONE OF 1939



On Saturday afternoon, June 10, 1939, a cyclone struck the area southeast of Sheldon; damaging property in both Stockland and Sheldon townships. This is reported to be the worst cyclone ever to hit this area.

The upper left picture is the remains of the fine large eight-room home of Mrs. Nellie Reynolds. Mrs. Reynolds and her nephew were away at the time and this sight greeted them upon their return.

The picture in upper right is the Jim Cooley farm home. Very little of the house remains as can be seen in the picture and that portion was

literally wrapped around a tree. They took refuge from the storm in the basement shown.

The photo in lower left is the McEwan farm occupied by the Olin McCutcheons. They also went into the cellar of the house but the storm did not completely rip this place apart, although the south wing and more than half the main part of the house was unroofed. Debris of the other buildings litters the foreground.

The lower right shows the former pretentious home occupied by the James Potters. In the background is the largest remaining piece of the house and in the foreground is the basement.

THIS SNOW OF 1900 MUST BE THE ONE OLD TIMERS TALK OF

The big snow storm reached Sheldon about six o'clock Tuesday evening. By morning there was nearly a foot of snow, and the snow kept coming till late Wednesday night. Trains were delayed. Business was almost at a standstill. In front of the Strickler building was a six-foot drift in which the boys planted a sign "Keep off the grass." At Cassell's store the snow was nearly as deep. When the inside of the drift was cut away it look so much like a fort that the neighbors helped him dress it up. Several small flags were planted on the parapets, two suits of old clothes stuffed with snow served as sentinels, and the frowning muzzles of old joints of stovepipe threatened the government building (postoffice) with annihilation. However, Capt. Ranton and the garrison are holding out bravely in hope of relief.

Teacher's Pets

Sheldon's first frame school house, stood at the corner of North Fourth and East Concord Sts., present grade school playground, it had a small annex built on the front. In those days 'janitor' was just a word in the dictionary and it was considered an honor by the older boys, on cold wintry days, to be allowed to carry in wood and stack it in the annex, so the teacher would not have to leave classes, to go outside for fuel to keep the heating stove going.

Daniel Webster's Classmate.

We find Dr. David Greenlee, early physician in Sheldon and first town clerk in 1872, displayed his Medical Diploma with considerable pride, as it was signed by President Franklin Pierce, and the doctor he served his apprenticeship under Dr. S. Burnham, was a classmate of Daniel Webster.

CENTENNIAL GREETINGS

SHELDON FARMERS
CO-OP ELEVATOR

GRAIN

SEED

FEED

FERTILIZER

FARM EQUIPMENT

POULTRY

HOG

CATTLE

Phone 85

H. E. SLIBECK, Manager

BUSINESS OF SHELDON

A list of Sheldon Businesses and professions has been compiled, and listed in order from the year in which they have operated under the name now in use.

Sheldon Journal	1879
Rougk Brothers	1885
Sheldon Building & Loan Association	1889
Sheldon Farmers Co-Op. Elevator	1897
Minier Furniture Store	1901
Standard Oil Co.	1910
Hiltz Brothers	1922
W. L. Smith Grain Co.	1923
L & L Motor Company	1925
Messman Oil Co.	1925
Gordon H. Snow Insurance Agency	1932
Sheldon Plumbing & Heating	1934
Fetherling Variety	1935
Norman O. Hungness, M.D.	1935
Peck's Flower Shop	1935
Grab-It-Here Store	1936
Julien Service Station	1936
Tudor Appliance Shop	1937
Messman Oil Station	1938
Sumner Insurance Agency	1938
Sumner National Bank	1938
Norris Grain Co.	1939
Krohn Recreation	1940
C. D. Webster, D.V.M.	1940
Sheldon Produce	1941
Aikman Hardware	1944
C. M. Foster, Osteopath	1944
Harris Electric	1944
E. M. Sipe	1945
C. L. Clark, M.D.	1946
Sheldon Bakery	1946
John's Bike Shop	1947
Sheldon Food Lockers	1947
Trudeau Body Shop	1947
Lindholm Farm Management	1948
Sheldon Implement Co.	1948
R & R Vending & Distributing	1950
Sumner Elevator	1950
Megginson TV	1951
Donohue Package Store	1952
Doval's	1952
Sheldon Motel	1952
Easter's Texaco	1953
Sanders & Hickman	1953
Tip-Top Motel	1954
Happy Siesta Nursing Home	1954
Sproull Insurance Agency	1954
Ewing's Grocery	1955
A. H. Hoffman, Inc.	1955

Jewel Box Cafe	1955
B. J. Bishopp Grain	1956
Bussert Funeral Home	1956
Louise's Frock Shoppe	1956
McNeill Radio & TV	1956
Thune's Drug Store	1956
William's Barber Shop	1956
Bill Hoagland Agency	1957
Johnny's Standard Service	1957
Meggs Men's Clothing	1957
Wedgbury Electric	1957
The Curb Cafe	1958
Hogle's Texaco	1958
Perry & Bill	1958
Sheldon Livestock Co., Inc.	1958

ITEMS OF INTEREST

The history of the Hoagland and Clark families begins with three men, John Carpenter, Isaac Hoagland and Samuel Clark, in Ohio. In the 1830's they began to come west from Ohio. The Clarks around Sheldon are descendants of four of Samuel's grandsons. Charles, son of Isaac and Polly Carpenter Hoagland, was probably the first white child to be born in Ohio. All the Sheldon Hoaglands are descendants of either Charles or James Hoagland. Charles Hoagland lived to be 98 years of age and left 93 living direct descendants. He used to say that he never wore anything but homespun shirts and buckskin pants until he was 16; had no playmates but Indians until he was six; that during the War of 1812 the Indians became so hostile that his mother would hide her seven children in a cave.

James Hoagland started his Sheldon career with a wife and four children, a team of horses and a wagon and \$20 in his pocket.

LANDMARK PASSES ON!

On Hallowe'en in the year 1901, peace-loving residents had made a resolution that all boys caught in any mischievous acts would be locked in the jail-house and given a chance to repent their misdeeds. But the boys had other ideas on the subject. Accordingly they filled the city bastille, a disreputable shanty located on the site of the tourist park, with straw stolen from Tullis' livery barn, and touched it off. The alarm was turned in, but when the fire-fighters discovered where the fire was, they were suddenly afflicted with aparysis. The few who eventually showed up were not inclined to do anything about it, and so another old landmark passed on!

For the next 100 Years

Happy Siesta Nursing Home

Registered Nurse at the Patients' Service

STATE LICENSED

This is a Home, Not an Institution

MR. & MRS. PAUL KELLER – Owners

220 E. Center

Sheldon Phone 134

Thune's Drug Store

132 S. 4th St.

SHELDON, ILLINOIS

Phone 61

FOR SERVICE & SAVINGS

Anonymous—(Probably Dr. Smalley)

The spring of 1892 was very rainy, and there were ponds of water everywhere. Some of the board walks were floating like rafts. Along the brick block the mud was two feet deep, and behind the Sheldon Journal and Sheldon News offices was a small Atlantic ocean. There was a wide board walk along the brick block, and on the east side of the street was a similar but less pretentious sidewalk. Photographer Groves displayed pictures of some of the townsmen with make-believe fishing rods, fishing in the street.

The stone crossings at each end of the brick block were usually covered with mud. There were sixteen lamp posts at the chief street intersections, on the tops of which were petroleum lamps. These lamps were lighted each evening by city marshal A. R. Sharp, who on windy evenings used a large bandana handkerchief to shelter the flame from the wind.

The Decoration Day parade was staged by the L. B. Brown post, G.A.R.; Mr. Moore played the fife, Bob Colvin carried the flag, and Billy Shortridge issued commands. The parade started west from the schoolhouse, turned south at Major Bob Foster's house, and skirted the pond where Mrs. L. D. Snow's house now stands. The next house was known as the Old Maid's Home. Then came Barton Bishopp's elevator, John Deaner's hardware store, and Patterson's grocery. The parade passed opposite the brick block, past the Sheldon Journal, Chicky Grey's, the News office, and Cassell's store, then over to Fleager's opera house, and south to the cemetery on a dirt path. There Chris Reighart offered prayer.

When the services were over, the school children made a bee-line to Butler's, two doors from the south end of the brick block. Here there was a machine for making milk shakes, and it was worth the five cents a milk shake cost to see the thing work. Beech and Clem Butler helped their father in the store, and were two of the best-liked men in town. Farther down the street was the drug store of W. A. Turner and Sons—Harley and Carl. Mr. Baker, the postmaster, was assisted at his work by his daughter, Frances. On one side of the postoffice was Mr. Landes, the town jeweler, and on the other side was the stationery store of Henry and Ab Gilmore.

Sheldon's favorite speaker was Bob Foster, proprietor of the furniture store. He was the Will Rogers of Sheldon, and no gathering was complete without him. After a speaker had pictured the

horrors of war, Bob would rise and say that it was all bunk, that the soldiers had a fine time, and that it was the women staying at home who needed sympathy. It was his custom to give every widow in Sheldon a turkey at Thanksgiving.

Another talented speaker was Andy Dwyer, an attorney, who was his own worst enemy.

In the Sheldon of today there are no parades, no G.A.R. uniforms, no Mr. Fleager, Mr. Hutchins, Mr. Potter, Mr. Brockway, Mr. Foster, Mr. Smalley, Mr. Ewing, Mr. Weeks, Mr. Anderson—but the beauty and cleanliness of the town are living monuments to their efforts.—(original printed May 26, 1932.)

ITEMS OF INTEREST

Dr. Orlando Bush purchased his first tract of land in Iroquois county in 1859, but it was not until 1871 that he came here to live. He retired from practice after coming here and devoted his time to his land and cattle. He died in 1889. His wife was Ada Davis and they had two daughters, Mrs. Horace Gibson and Mrs. H. C. Dowell.

Robert Caldwell was one of the organizers of the Republican party in 1856, at Old Middleport. He was an old and respected friend of "Uncle Joe" Cannon, and was his host during one of the Speaker's visits here in 1906. Mrs. Caldwell was formerly Cynthia Pinneo. The farm south of Sheldon, originally owned by Mr. Caldwell, was taken over by the Hardesty family who was the fifth family to settle in Sheldon.

For many years Abraham Coughenour, who came here in 1836, was a school director and justice of the peace. He was the possessor of one of the few libraries in the community. His wife was Elizabeth Williams, whose family was prominent among the early pioneers of the Milford community.

Running away from his home in Peoria county in 1863, Joseph Nagele joined the Union Army, serving until the close of the war. He came to this area in 1867 and engaged in farming on what is now the Nagele homestead.

At the close of the Civil War, Herman W. Snow received a personal letter from Abraham Lincoln, commending him for his faithful service and giving him an honorable discharge.

As well as being a popular citizen and veterinary, Dr. O. F. West was well known as a stamp and coin collector. He came to Sheldon in 1911. His wife was a Sheldon girl, Miss Vinnie Bigger.

Mark Mayhew, grandfather of Mrs. Pearl Sever, came to America from England in 1851. He landed in New York with three cents in his pocket. He came to Sheldon in 1853.

JULIEN'S SERVICE STATION



GEORGE

BERT & JAKE

SHELDON, ILLINOIS

PHONE 105

CRANER FORD-MERCURY SALES

WATSEKA, ILLINOIS

Everything You Want On Wheels

ROBERTS CLINIC

Watseka, Illinois

CLARENCE A. KELLER

Dealer

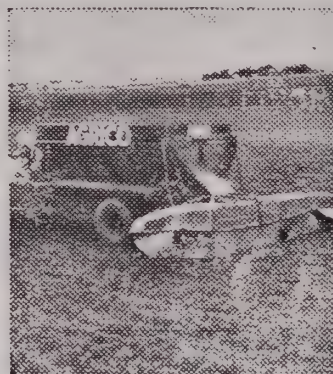
SHELDON, ILLINOIS

LIMESTONE

PHOSPHATE

FERTILIZER

SEED CORN



Bulk spreading is the ideal way
to apply AGRICO before plowing.

NELSON, BROCK & MARKWALDER

ATTORNEYS

130 W. Cherry St.

WATSEKA, ILLINOIS

AUSTIN OFFICE EQUIPMENT CO.

124 E. Oak St.

Watseka, Illinois

Representing

Remington Rand Office Equipment

UARCO Forms and Registers

Heyer Duplicators

COMPLIMENTS OF

Waukegan Federal Savings and Loan Association

106 South Fourth Street

WATSEKA, ILLINOIS

Savings and Home Loans Since 1883

ASSETS OVER \$11,000,000

ALVER POPCORN COMPANY

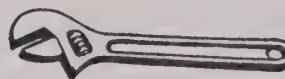
Popcorn Processers

WATSEKA, ILLINOIS

Plant: Cutmer Station, Milford, Illinois

ACE

TOOLS OF ALL KINDS



Paints — Housewares

Hardware — Supplies

For all purposes, to fit all pocketbooks.

ACE means greater buying power, lower prices—

BUT IN FIRST GRADE QUALITY

PREVO'S ACE HARDWARE

WATSEKA, ILLINOIS



CENTENNIAL CONGRATULATIONS



to

THE SHELDON COMMUNITY

From

McCullough Implement Co.

WATSEKA, ILLINOIS

Headquarters for

THE BEST IN FARM MACHINERY

See or Call Us Anytime

LEVI

TOM

ROY

Phone IDlewood 2-4190



ORGANIZATIONS

Sheldon has had many organizations, some very early in its history. They were very active at that time but gave up their charters in the 1900's.

For example—The Knights of Pythias had over 100 members at one time. They gave up their Charter in 1919.

The Pythian Sisters an old organization with a large membership, gave up their charter some-time ago. Some of the Pythian Sisters formed a social club, which they named the Jolly Club. Mrs. Robert Hartlep is president.

PARENT-TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

The Sheldon Grade School P.-T. A. was organized on September 19, 1941, following the consolidation of the Sheldon and country grade schools.

The first officers elected were: President, Mrs. Gilbert (Jessie) Johnson; Vice-President, Mr. Reese Bowton, Sr.; Secretary, Miss Elizabeth Richardson; Treasurer, Mrs. Dan Schlotman.

The group is affiliated with the state and national organization and meets the third Monday of the month during the school year. They have aided the grade school by the installation of playground and other equipment.

Officers for the current year 1958-59 are: President, Ed Pillotte; Vice-President, Paul Keller; Secretary, Mrs. Wilbur Reynolds; Treasurer, Mrs. James Eagle.

MASONIC LODGE

Sheldon Lodge No. 609, A. F. and A. M. was chartered Oct. 5, 1869. The first Worshipful Master was James Cauvins.

The Masons are still very active, with a membership of 117. They own their own lodge room, with dining room and kitchen. The present Worshipful Master is Charles Rutledge.

ORDER OF EASTERN STAR

The Sheldon Chapter of Eastern Star was chartered October 30, 1902. The first Worthy Matron was Charity Warrick and the first Worthy Patron was George Hummer.

Mrs. Anna Amos is the only living charter member. The present Worthy Matron is Mrs. Harlan Light and the Worthy Patron is Irvin Hollingsworth.

Their membership is 120.



Sheldon Township Library will always stand as a Monument to The Sheldon Woman's Club. Their Club rooms are located in basement. Present Library board members—Mesdames R. F. Karr, John Julien, Carl Webster, and Clayton Gillfillian and Mr. Kenneth Stephens and Mr. Barton Bishopp. Librarian—Mrs. Grace Tobey.

ODD FELLOWS

Sheldon Lodge No. 349, I.O.O.F. was chartered in 1871. This lodge carried on for many years but gave up its charter in 1936. James Deitcher, Glenn Sennett and Edward Thielbar are still members in a neighboring town.

REBEKAHS

The first Rebekah Degree Lodge was instituted in Sheldon in 1870 by W. B. Fleager. For 76 years this lodge was active, closing in 1946.

Some of the Rebekahs also formed a social circle, called the Harmony Club. Mrs. Frank Clark is president.

ROYAL NEIGHBORS

Benevolence Camp 521 Royal Neighbors of America of Sheldon was chartered March 8, 1897.

The Juvenile Camp was instituted in 1922 with 16 members. Royal Neighbors of Sheldon have approximately 150 members. Some still carry their membership in Sheldon although they have moved away.

There are nine present members who have been Royal Neighbors for more than 50 years. They are: Mrs. Anna Fetherling, Mrs. Blanche McCormick, Mrs. Bertha Graves, Mrs. Fannie Tullis, Mrs. Ruth Smith, Mrs. Mary Reutebuch, Mrs. Anna Amos, Mrs. Edythe Newman, and Mrs. Catherine Sampson.

The present oracle is Mrs. Emma Turpin.

Compliments of



SHELDON AMERICAN LEGION

POST 393



SHELDON AMERICAN LEGION

AUXILIARY

POST 393

VETERANS

The history of Sheldon would not be complete, without due respect paid to her sons, who have answered their country's call to defend it. During the War between the States or The Civil War, April 1861-1865, although sparsely populated, Sheldon gave more than its quota. Six gave their lives: J. M. Beadle, Isaac Caldwell, Joseph F. Eastburn, Thomas F. Eastburn, Isaac Hougland, and Thomas Mantor.

After the war those who returned and those who came to make their home here, were the members of the L. B. Brown Post 151 of the Grand Army of the Republic. The post was named for Dr. Lucian Brown, early physician and druggist of Sheldon, who served as Surgeon in Chief of the Memphis Post of Defense, of the 113th Illinois Regiment.

Dr. J. W. Robinson, who came to Sheldon in 1873, was instrumental in organizing the Post, was the first Commander and served as such for five years.

In 1890 the Post had 50 members, the Commander was Alonzo R. Sharp.

As the years passed their numbers dwindled until Joseph Leatherman was the last survivor. He passed away June 4, 1932. (Mr. Leatherman was the father of Mrs. Wm. Fetherling).

There are 56 Civil War Veterans buried in Sheldon Cemetery.

The Ladies Auxiliary of the Grand Army of the Republic was called the Woman's Relief Corps. Sheldon had an active group, we find in the resolutions adopted at the close of a two day encampment of the 113th Illinois Veterans Association held in Sheldon in 1901, when W. C. Shortridge was state president of the association. They voted a special "Thank You to the Sheldon Woman's Relief Corps for the wonderful meals served them."

SPANISH AMERICAN WAR

During the Spanish American War of 1898 we find three from Sheldon took part: George Barnes, Aaron Moore and Edward E. McCloud.

WORLD WAR I

World War I, April 1917 - November 1918 was the next call to arms. Many young men of Sheldon answered this call.

Six gave their lives: Harry Whaley, Howard Hardy, John A. Bonnett, Harold E. Clark, Archie Rahm, and Clarence Dutcher.

After the close of World War I and the return of the service men, a meeting was called in April 1919 to discuss the organizing of an American Legion Post.

August 1, 1920 a charter was issued to Sheldon Post 393 of the American Legion. There were 15 members: Harley R. Hootman, Carl Hogle, William M. Disosway, Bert Postill, Harold Smalley, Leonard Pruitt, Harry Witman, Sylvester Lucas, Fred S. Disosway, Charles W. Seever, Herschel Zumwalt, Donald Holloway, Roy Marshall, Ray Webster and West Webster.

The first meetings were held in an upstairs room of the Ross Rookery building.

WORLD WAR II

World War II, December 1941 - August 1945, again the nation was plunged into a Global war. Over 200 young men and 12 young women entered the service from Sheldon.

Seven gave their lives: Ray Morgan, Warren Musgrave, Preston Henderson, Howard Wilkinson, Charles Hutchinson, Bernard Hutchinson, Edward Thielbar.

In 1943 the American Legion amended their constitution and welcomed the World War II Veterans into the organization. Upon their return home the Sheldon Post reached an all time high with 175 members.

In 1946-47 the American Legion Home was purchased and many improvements made.

Early in 1947, Floyd Brown presented a Legion project for a Memorial Shrine at the Sheldon Cemetery where the Post and community could assemble for Memorial Day Services. The Shrine was dedicated "To all those who gave their lives for their Country," at the Memorial Day Services in 1947.

1948-49 the Legion launched a drive for funds and \$1600 was contributed by the community for a lighted Athletic Field. It is located west of the high school. Later a public address system was added and other improvements made.

1950-53, again Sheldon was ably represented in the Korean Conflict. Upon the return of these veterans the membership of Post 393 was again enlarged.

Ernest Glasgow is 1958-59 Commander.

SHELDON ORGANIZATIONS

BOOST CENTENNIAL

Woman's Club

Home Bureau Unit

Grandmother's Club – Charter 10

The Women of the Methodist Church

Royal Neighbors of America

Mothers of World War II

Harmony Club

Jolly Club

Friday Community Club

Willing Workers

**SHEWAMI
COUNTRY CLUB**

**EXTENDS BEST
WISHES TO SHELDON**

A FRIEND



Big 4 train, carrying Spanish American War troops, when it stopped in Sheldon in 1898.



Mr. Joseph Letherman, Sheldon's last Civil War Veteran, passed away, June 4, 1932.

He is holding G. A. R. Flag, presented to Post, by Mrs. Nellie Mendenhall and Mrs. Grace Lee Townsend, daughters of Dr. L. B. Brown, for whom the post was named.

Mr. Leatherman was the father of Mrs. William Fetherling.



"Clawson House," Lunch room and hotel. "Served the best food on the Big 4 route," was opinion of trainmen. Located on West Main street, it faced east, the front being just west of Big 4 tracks. It was here the Spanish American War troops were fed, when they stopped in Sheldon in 1898.

Mrs. Clawson served 50 large boilers of coffee and every scrape of food she had, to the troops. Several weeks later, she received a check from the government paying for the meals. The building was used as a lunch room until 1905, when it was converted into a comfortable dwelling, facing south. It is now the home of the Charles Clawson's daughter, Mrs. Maude Kelleher.

On porch in picture, Mrs. Chas. Clawson, holding daughter, Helen, and Mr. Clawson's mother, Grandma Clawson.

CENTENNIAL GREETINGS

From

Sheldon Junior Chamber of Commerce



JAYCEES AND JAYCEE AIDES



CONGRATULATIONS

THE SHELDON LIONS CLUB

COMPLIMENTS

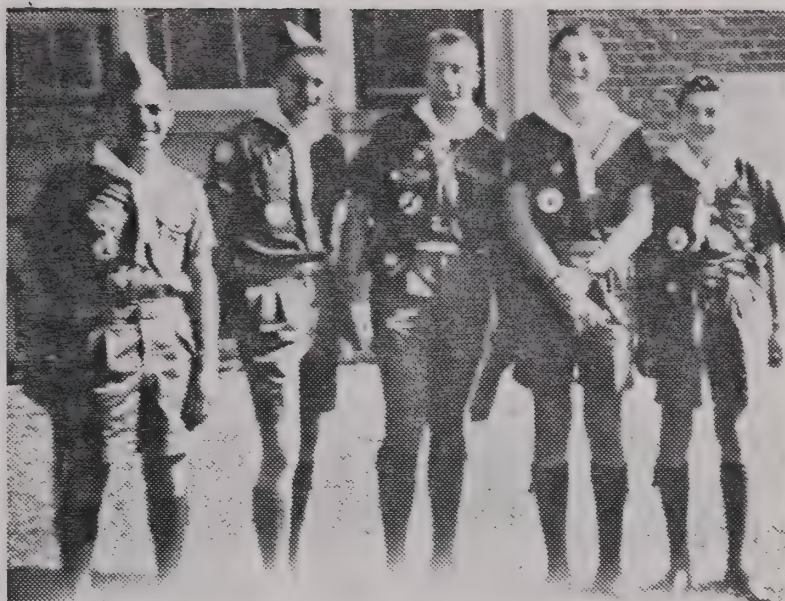
OF

**MR. & MRS. WILLIAM M.
DISOSWAY**

CONGRATULATIONS

**MR. & MRS. EMMETT BIGGER
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Sheldon's Boy Scouts ready to depart for the National Boy Scout Jamboree, held at Valley Forge, Penn., July 12 to 18, 1957. Reading left to right, Scoutmaster Thomas Shrimplin, William Payne, George Kokos, Russell Jensen and Stephen Liebenow.



BOY SCOUTS

Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts have been active in Sheldon at various times for many years. Sons and grandsons of former scouts are active members today.

Under the able leadership of Thomas Shrimplin, Boy Scout Troop No. 54 has 15 active members. Assistant scout master is Ronald King.

The most recent highlights of Region 7 are a canoe trip to Boulder Junction, Wisconsin in 1956; the National Jamboree at Valley Forge, Penn. in 1957 and the Philmont Scout Ranch, Cimarron, New Mexico in 1958. The four scouts who attended with Scoutmaster Shrimplin in 1958 were: Howard Slibeck, Jr., Dennis Webster, Ross Kokos, and Leland Shrimplin.

WORLD WAR II MOTHERS

Charter 132 was received by the World War II Mothers in March 1949. Mrs. Loretta Rock was the first president. They have 40 members, Mrs. Earl Newman is the present president.

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

The Woman's Auxiliary Unit of Sheldon Post No. 393 of the American Legion was chartered in August 1920. Mrs. Carrie Bundy was the first president. Mrs. Lillian Grubel is the only living continuous charter member. Mrs. Jack Kerstetter is the 1958-59 president.

Sheldon Unit is proud to have had a Department (State) president, Mrs. Carrie Disosway, who served 1951-52.

GIRL SCOUTS

The forerunner of the Girl Scouts was the Camp Fire Girls, who were active in the early nineteen hundreds.

More than 20 girls were active from 1930 - 1938 under the leadership of Mrs. Ernest Sipe and Mrs. William Disosway.

During 1957-58 Sheldon Girl Scouts numbered 55. The Senior Group has 16 girls, leaders: Mrs. Lloyd Laird and Mrs. Peter Aikman.

The Intermediate group has 14 girls, leader: Mrs. Henry Tudor.

The Brownie Scouts have 25 members, leaders: Mrs. James Henderson and Mrs. Richard Holloway.

SHELDON GRANDMOTHERS CLUB

The Sheldon Grandmothers Club had 37 Charter members, when Charter 10 was issued to them in October 1940.

Mrs. Mary Jane Brown was the first president. Mrs. Grace Wilson is the present. They now have 87 members. This club is one of the most active organizations in town.

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

Sheldon Post No. 7708, Veterans of Foreign Wars received their charter in 1958.

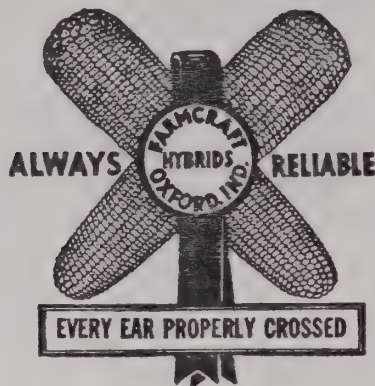
Frank B. Taylor is Commander.

THE JUNIOR AUXILIARY

The Junior Auxiliary was organized in Oct. 1939. Eleanor Silvers was the first chairman.

Donna Schuringa is the present chairman. They have 26 members, their leader is Mrs. Marilyn Davenport.

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World War I Veterans of Sheldon Post 393, when they were entertained at County Council Meeting, by Watseka Post. L. to R. standing — W. G. McEwan, Leslie Morgan, Herschel Zumwalt, William Disosway, Carl Hogle, Ambrose Haag, George Goosey, Harry Brubaker.

Seated — Floyd Brown, Verne Hutchins, Roy Marshall, Eugene Disosway, Harry Krohn and Robert Sproull.

Welcome to the Centennial Celebration

SHELDON, ILLINOIS--July 26 Through August 1, 1959



When Memorial Shrine was dedicated in 1947. Honor Guard World War II Veterans — of Sheldon Post 393 — L. to R. — Back of flag, Harry Witman, only World War I Veteran; Lowell Cole, Howard Bauer, Reese Bowton, Frank Taylor, James Brown, Joe Lameck, Loren Hagen Robert Runnion, Homer Temple and Everett Eighnor. Not in picture, Assistant color guard, Ray Keene and Squad Commander, Dee Pinneo.

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Left to Right—James Eagle, Jack Reynolds, Ambrose Haag, Johnny Julien.

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SHELDON, ILLINOIS

LIONS CLUB

The Sheldon Lions Club was granted a charter on March 2, 1931, with 28 charter members.

P. W. Minier was the first president.

The Lions Club has always been interested in serving the Sheldon Community. They sponsored the first Minstrel Show, the proceeds to go to the softball teams; the Corn and Poultry Show in 1932, boxing matches, the planting of trees and shrubbery, the Community Fund, and in 1950 they started giving a \$50 scholarship to a worthy Senior of Sheldon High School. The 1958-59 president is Carl Webster.

SHELDON COMMUNITY FUND

The Sheldon Community Fund was organized in 1948, for the purpose of eliminating numerous drives in Sheldon. A representative was selected from each organization and an organization meeting was held December 1, 1948. It was decided there would be nine members on the board, elected for three year terms. Four members would make a quorum and both chairman and treasurer would sign all checks. The annual drives are sponsored by the Lions Club.

R. H. Liebenow was elected chairman, a position he held until 1957. The present chairman is Mrs. William M. Disosway.

SHELDON ART LEAGUE

The Sheldon Art League was started by Brooks Courtright and Miss Luella Schlotman in 1952 as a group interested in painting. Since the fall of 1952 the League has had an annual Art Exhibit, usually the first Sunday in November. The increase of interest in the exhibit has been gratifying. Mrs. E. W. Settle was the first chairman, Miss Luella Schlotman is the present.

JAYCEES

The Junior Chamber of Commerce is an organization of young men interested in making their community a better place to live.

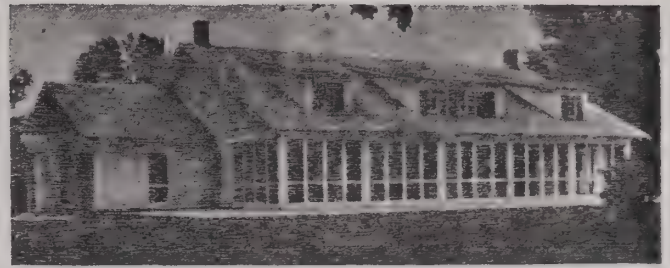
The Sheldon group received their charter April 12, 1954. There were nineteen charter members. Joe Woodruff was the first president.

Their first project was a "Clean the town campaign". They have sponsored the annual Easter Egg hunt, Pet parades and local Plowing contests.

The Jaycees Aids have helped put extra playground equipment in the village park.

Frank Davenport is president.

Sheldon has a number of small but active organizations such as the Home Bureau, Friday Community club and church groups.



Shewami Country Club House

SHEWAMI COUNTRY CLUB

The Shewami Country Club was organized in 1922; located 3½ miles west of Sheldon, in Sheldon Township. It was made possible by the cooperation of three towns, Sheldon, Watseka and Milford, from whence it got its name, the first letters of each town She-Wa-Mi. It is a nine hole course, and one of the best in this part of the country. Mr. William H. Sipe was the first president, an office he held for five years. It was thru his untiring efforts the club was organized and the clubhouse built.

The land was leased from Luther F. Eastburn until his death in 1952, when he bequeathed it to the Club.

Mr. Frank Clark of Sheldon has been grounds keeper since it was organized, (36 years).

Mr. Kenneth (Ted) Davis of Milford is the 1958-59 president.

SHELDON WOMAN'S CLUB

In September 1911 a meeting was held and a Woman's Club was organized for civic improvement. Mrs. Frank Bishopp was elected president, the membership fee was 10 cents. Their project was to beautify the park.

In 1913 they started a library. About 600 books were donated and a room in the Snow block was procured. From this the present Public Library grew, it was opened on April 11, 1917, with a collection of 2000 books. Susie Clarke (Hootman) was the first Librarian.

Today there are more than 7000 books, Mrs. Grace Tobey is the present librarian. The Public Library will always stand as a monument to the Sheldon Woman's Club.

For a number of years the club has sent students to Music Camp.

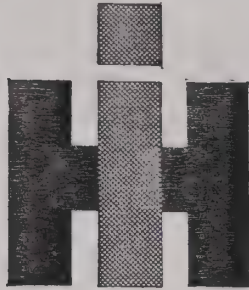
Each year the club sponsors several splendid programs, to which the public is invited. Mrs. Earl Galloway is the 1958-59 president.

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ENTERTAINMENT

The early settlers of Sheldon, and this community took time from business, and home duties for pleasure, and parties, the same as they do today, but unlike today, they made their own fun by entertaining in their homes with large dinners, euchre, and whist parties and dances. The three Dodson brothers of Kentland often furnished the music with their fiddles. The late Charles Disosway, father of Wilbur Disosway, told of driving from Milford through snow drifts higher than the fences to dances at the white house on the hill as the Orren Smith home was called at that time.

After the erection of Fleager's Opera House, dances were held there on the stage. Later when the Snow Block was built, two rooms on the second floor were used for dances and large card parties.

Church suppers, or socials as they were called, were held in the large homes, as churches at that time did not have the room or equipment for serving food. The guests were served on lap boards, which were held on the laps of two persons facing each other. Home talent plays, and plays by traveling companies were given in Fleager's Opera House. Lou Allen and Miss Rietz were two of the directors. One, "Rip Van Winkle," was given at the Opera House under the direction of Lou H. Allen. Quoting from the Sheldon Journal, June 30, 1900, "The play was a pronounced success from every point. The house was packed, and the heat oppressive. A majority of the audience re-

ceived more than they paid for and really wanted. They did not relish a Turkish bath." A Chautauqua was held each summer for several years, supported by the merchants and other generous citizens; that is, they assumed the deficit, if any. Many splendid lectures, fine concerts, and good talent in other lines of art were enjoyed. With the advent of the movies, the Chautauqua and traveling troupes were a thing of the past.

The Saturday Club, organized in 1904, in its early years brought a number of fine entertainments to town for their friends. One was a concert given in the Orren G. Smith home by Zetta Whitson, violinist and Edwin Schneider, pianist. Mr. Schneider was the accompanist for the noted tenor, John McCormack. Mary Welch, soprano, and Phyllis Fergus, pianist and monologist, gave a concert at the Presbyterian church for the club and their friends.

Sheldon has always been blessed with exceptionally fine talent. Far better than most small towns, therefore, entertainment has always been foremost in their way of life.

"The Merry Milkmaids" a light Opera was presented in February 1909 at the Fleager Opera House. It was a 'Hit' from beginning to end and was given seven times in Sheldon and three times at Kentland in September 1909. W. H. Overhue was the director. It was given for the benefit of the Sheldon Concert Band.



Sheldon's popular String Band, they played for entertainments and dances in the early 1900's.

L. to R.—Wilton Bowton, Charles Schlotman, Thomas Coughenour, Bert Wolverton, Jessie Coughenour and Ed Haag.



THE "MERRY MILKMAIDS" CAST

L. to R. Top Row—Paul Rebholtz, Sam Holloway, Martha Bishopp (Eastburn), Charles Bussert, Mable Smith (Hiestand), Vera Richardson, William Burrel, Mrs. Burrel, Raised at Back—Branch Bishopp, Maude Mitchell (Joyal), William Bussert, Dr. Ethan Allen, Suz Frith (Queen from Kankakee), Dr. J. P. Lane, L. T. Hutchins, Scott Jones, H. D. Bowles, Clem Butler, Les'ie Holloway, Elmer Hopkins; 2nd Row—Frank Zumwalt, B. M. Ingalls, Myrtle Watkins (Cobb), Lydia Bramer, Anna Hardy (Dickie), Edna Shay (Thompson), Jim Watkins, Bernice Warrick (Nelson), Mrs. Woodin, G. A. Woodin, Lena Heck (Boatman); Front Row—Violinist from Kankakee, Joe Howarth, Nellie Brown (Mendenhall), Pearl McHarge (Thompson), Myrtle Strickler (Renner), Mrs. W. H. Overhue, Mamie Nosker (Smith), Edith Dowling, Anna Rose (Shrimplin), Charles Cassell and William Overhue, director.



Sheldon is proud of their School Band, rated one of the best in their division in state competition. This is the 1957-58 group. Standing, back row—Nancy Buese, Bill Wedgebury, Ross Kokos, George Kokos, Rodney Norris, Jack Hiner, Howard Slibeck, Jr., John Granrude, Francis Webster and Mr. Irvin Hollingsworth, band director.

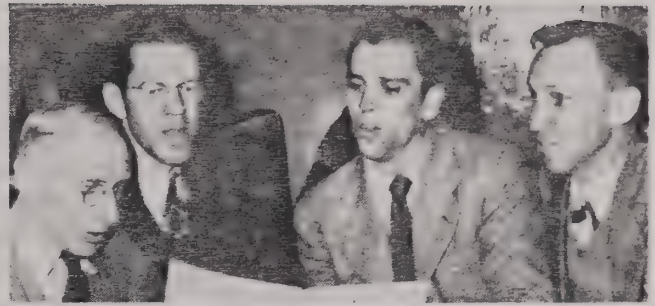
Seated, first row, at back—Carol Eastburn, Karen Wilman, Evelyn Leyman, Carolyn Ashby, Dennis Webster, Edward Gooding, Bobby Pilotte, Beverly Norder, Bill Payne, Linda Buckley, Russell Jensen, Jim Norris, Steve Liebenow, Mike Wedgebury, Donna Schuringa, Pat Marketto, Douglas Trudeau, Mike McKimson, Fred McEwan, Carol Schmidt, Judy Payne, Mary Ellen Nagele, Dick Meents.

Middle row—Sherry Hoagland, Jean Lindholm, Carol Reynolds, Ann Messman, Pat Eastburn, Judy Mabbitt, Constance Callahan, Pat Buege, Carol Quinn, Mary Houmes, Darlene Lambert, Robert Yarneau, Roxy Peck.

Front row—Donna Trudeau, Sheryl Snow, Cathy Dulin, Pat Hickman, Virginia Fullerton, Mike Kirk, Mary Bussert, Jac McCutchan, Nancy Hamm, Julie Jacobson and Ann Bishopp.

Sheldon's Famous Quartette—L. to R.—Floyd Brown, Irvin Hollingworth, Jack Hamm and Joe Reynolds.

They sang at the Congress Hotel in Chicago in 1954.



The Risley Family Nickel Plate Band was organized December 1, 1897 and made its first public appearance on the streets of Sheldon, December 25, 1897. From then on they were very popular, in surrounding towns as well as in Sheldon. They were acclaimed the best band of its kind in the world and took several tours. It was composed of of Mr. and Mrs. John Risley and sons. The Risley's grandson, Robert Risley, is a Sheldon businessman.

THE CELEBRATED SHELDON CONCERT BAND was organized in November 1899, composed of 24 members. It was partially supported by the business men of the town, by a monthly subscription. It was one of the most popular bands along the Big 4 Line from Chicago to Lafayette and the T.P.&W. from Peoria to Logansport. Their snappy uniforms were maroon and gold and their open air concerts on Friday evenings were largely attended. W. H. Overhue was the director.



Above picture was taken while playing at St. Anne, Illinois, July 19, 1900.

Standing—W. H. Overhue (director), D. C. Hathaway (drum major), A. B. Butler, J. L. Halleck, H. C. Pierce, Arthur Bishopp, Hal Matthews, W. G. Hump'reys, S. C. Fenton, W. W. Wilson, Ray Burgess.

Seated—W. A. James, Frank Coughenour, O. Grubbs, F. C. Jones, Frank Zumwalt; On ground—E. Hopkins, Frank Bishopp, D. A. Smalley, C. L. Butler, E. J. Matthews, Chas. Bowen, Earl Humphreys.

Three members were absent—Ed Gooding, J. Wm. McCarty, W. S. McEwen.

Minstrel Shows

Sheldon has reason to be proud of its very fine Minstrel Shows. The test of a home talent play, is the fact that people drive from other towns to see the play and do not know the players. They come because they know they will be entertained.

The Lion's Club has sponsored all the Minstrel shows, nine in number. The first in 1934, Mrs. John Joost was the director. Mrs. Donald Lindholm has directed the last eight. Miss Genevieve Fetherling, accompanist. The last Minstrel was staged in 1957.



L. to R. standing—Brooks Courtright, Irvin Hollingsworth, John Schlotman, Ernest Marketto, Howard Bauer, Dr. Faust, Robert Buck, Floyd Brown, Jack Hamm, Mr. Roberts, Mr. Phillips, John Doty, Lester Meents, Emmett Bigger, P. Ducommon, Joe Reynolds, Mrs. W. G. McEwan, Mrs. Reese Bowton, Miss Genevieve Fetherling. Front Row—Mrs. Kenneth Stephens, Mrs. Donald Lindholm, Mrs. James Perrone, Mrs. Bolling, Mrs. Harold Marketto. The Dancing Belles, extreme right, front row—Earl Spickler, Fritz Rougk, Gordon Snow and Donald Strand.

Miss Genevieve Fetherling, Minstrel Show accompanist.



Mrs. Max Darrough, (Naomi Evans) as she appeared, when she won first place as the top woman vocalist in the Chicago Music Festival in 1933. Mrs. Darrough voice and piano teacher for many years, had one of her students, Norma Hill, win second place in the piano division of the Chicago Music Festival in 1955. Miss Hill is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Artist Hill.



Leonard and Emmett Bigger, natives of Sheldon, were popular entertainers in the late 20's with their Hawaiian guitars. Leonard was killed in an accident in 1930. Emmett still lives in Sheldon.

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Here's to you! I hope that you shall live to be a thousand years, and I hope that I shall also live to be a thousand. Nay! A thousand years less one day. For I should hate to live and hear that you had passed away.

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THESE THREE PLACES**

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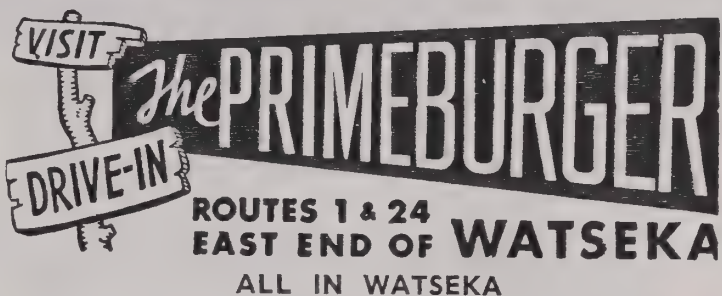
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FIRST SHELDON HORSE FAIR September 18-19-20, 1901

Sheldon Community had a large number of men and women intensely interested in fine horses. The Horse Fair was the outcome of this interest. The officers were: Frank Sennett, president; H. V. Crossland, vice-pres.; J. L. Peacock, General Superintendent. Superintendents of different divisions: Warren Ewen, George Deaner, Charles Eastburn, William Cupp, John Moran, William Shonkwiler, Frank Zumwalt, E. R. Settle, Hannibal Shrimplin, E. J. Dewing, William Sproull, and John Monohon.

The "Parade" was the grand event scheduled for the forenoon of the opening day, Wednesday, September 18. There were 190 of the finest horses in the community, groomed to perfection, in the parade, three bands: "The Sheldon Concert," "The Risley Family" and the "Earl Park." Beautiful floats, many drawn by six horse teams, lovely young ladies, numerous children and a Fife & Drum Corp.



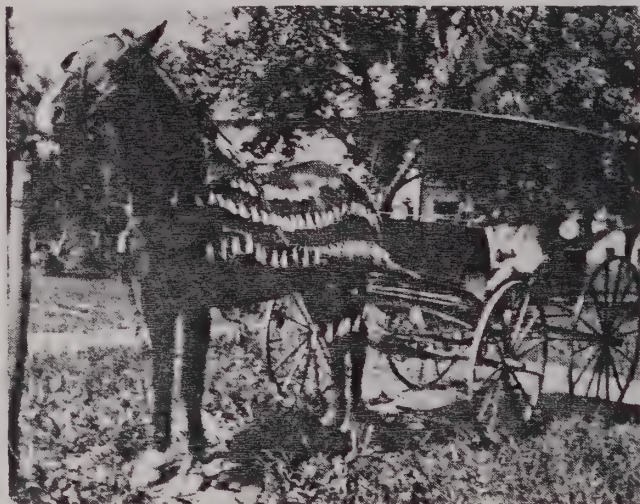
Blanche Settle (Holloway) best Lady Rider at Fair. 1901.

The crowd was estimated at 5000 on opening day. At 5:32 P. M. the Electric light plant exploded plunging the town in darkness, (details elsewhere). A meeting was called and they decided because the fair was so widely advertised they would continue. Thursday the crowd was 5000 and Friday, the last day 8000. The crowd was so dense a portion of the sidewalk, back of the bandstand collapsed, but no one was injured. A company of out of town players entertained nightly at the Fleager Opera House. Cancelled first night, because of explosion, they played to capacity houses the last two nights.

One of the highlights advertised for the last afternoon of the fair, was a wedding to take place on the bandstand. At the appointed hour, the band played "Mendelsshon's Wedding March", the bridal couple were driven to the platform in an open carriage, drawn by a team of Chas. Eastburn's premium roadsters.

They were Mr. Guy Smith of Iroquois and Miss Nettie Hanley of east of town. The minister was Rev. Elder of the United Brethern Church. After the ceremony to the strains of "The Bride Elect" and the thunderous applause of the audience they entered the carriage and were whisked away.

The first Fair was such a success, for several years thereafter it was an annual fall classic.



J. F. Switzer's "Surrey With The Fringe on Top." In carriage — Ruth Switzer (Sproull) and Stewart Switzer.



There were 190 horses in the Parade at Sheldon's First Horse Fair in 1901.

Welcome to the Centennial Celebration

SHELDON, ILLINOIS--July 26 Through August 1, 1959



Parade — First team — E. R. Settle's riding with him, Blanche Settle (Holloway); second team, Charles Eastburn's; third team, Charles Shrimplin's; fourth team, John Monohon's.



Some of Charles Eastburn's Horses, holding white horse, Grover Gillinger, second from left, Homer Eastburn, a breeder of Percheron and Coach horses, won many prizes, including a first on a carriage team at the Louisiana Exposition in St. Louis in 1904, firsts at the Illinois State Fair and the Chicago International. He also sold the highest priced team (at that time) to leave Iroquois Co., to Mandel Bros., Chicago merchants. Picture taken at west side of Sheldon park.



Mendenhall's Grocery Float — also a prize winner — Standing, L. to R. — Floyd Brown, Oscar Culligan; Seated — E. E. Mendenhall, Ed Sampson; In front — William Disosway, driver, Tom Coughenour and Ed Bussert.

Charles Shrimplin, driving team winner.



RESCUED

We have some ladies living in our town that were on the 'Ferris Wheel', when the electric light plant blew up at 5:32 P. M. September 18, 1901, the first evening of the Horse Fair. They had to be rescue, some of them from the top of the wheel, and the biggest thrill of their young lives was being helped down a weaving ladder to terra firma.

READ THE ADS—THEY MADE THIS HISTORY POSSIBLE

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ATHLETICS

Sheldon has always had good teams, and has been sports minded from the early days to the present time.



1903 Track Team: They won all points but 10 in the County Meet.

Top Row—Standing, L. to R.—Bruce Smith, Albert Hardy, W. C. Chapman, principal; Frank Nagele, Robert Schlotman; Second Row—Thomas Coughenour, John Thompson, William Barnes, Mark Disosway, Walter Hardy; Front Row—Dan Disosway, John Hardy, Harry Eastburn and R. F. Karr.

From "Swamp Angels To Fighting Rams"

According to the "Diary" kept by Mr. Charles Brubaker, Sheldon's first baseball team was organized in 1875, all farmer boys, excepting one. They named themselves the "Swamp Angels" as the country was very wet and swampy. For many years afterward Sheldon's teams were called by that name. Just when the "Fighting Rams" was adopted we are not sure, but we think it more appropriate for the present day.

Also from the "Diary", the instruments came

for Sheldon's first band September 25, 1877. There were nine members: Charles Tullis; Joe Newton; Charles Brubaker; John Newton; O. B. Caldwell; Charles A. Dunn; Aif Newton; F. W. John and Henry E. Waity. March 1, 1879 more members were added and in May of that year they played their first out-of-town engagement, two days for the Commencement Exercises at the Green Hill Seminary, located south of Oxford, Indiana. The public named this band, "The Swamp Angels" in deference to the team.



1898 Baseball Team—Back Row, L. to R.—Steve Mullen, George Pinneo, Clarence Fleager, Carl Turner, Ned McCloud; Middle Row—Ben Pitsford, Beach Butler, John Bishopp; Front Row—Clem Butler, Harry Bishopp and Burt Strickler.



1914 Football Team: They won all their games, but one. Standing—L. to R.—Omer Kirkpatrick, Ralph Watkins, William Disosway, Carpenter, Frank Kreichgauer, George Plunkett, Scott Mason; Seated—Lee Hayes, Arch Griminger, Bert Postill, Joe Hayes, Walter McEwan; In Front—Fred Boyd and Eugene Disosway.

Basketball Team: Back Row, L. to R. — Nelson Waity, manager; George Meyer, Fred Rougk, Robert Wagner, Robert Sennett, Gene Bolling, James Nagele, Robert Donohue; 2nd Row—Brooks Courtright, principal; Max Mabbitt, Jr., Ivan Kusch, Clarence Keller, Wesley Wingert, Bernard McKimson, Dale Sanderson, Robert Brown, Kenneth Stephens, coach; Front Row—Harriet McKimson, cheerleader; Lowell Gouty, James Smith, Donald Ewen, Elmore (Red) Clawson, Leroy Fletcher, Earl Wagoner, Jr., Alice White, cheerleader.

Boys in white suits, first team. In 1941 and 42, they won second in the Sectional Tournaments, missing the "Sweet-Sixteen" by one game.



Basketball Champions of 1912, won all their games in Iroquois County and went to Gardner, Illinois and defeated them.

Mr. Holch, principal; Ed Shay, Harley Hootman, Herschel Zumwalt, Ves Dixon, Eugene Disosway, Howard Hardy and Fred Tullis.

Robert (Bob) Foster, 7 year old son of Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Foster, won renown as the World's Best Trick and Novelty Rifle Shot among juveniles, under 12 years of age. He shot the flame from one to six candles, nipped a small flower from his father's tie, a cigaret from his month and broke fifteen small discs, the size of five cent pieces, that closely surrounded his father's body. Robert is now a real estate agent at Riverside, Cal. His mother, Mrs. Rubye Foster resides in Sheldon.



News films being made of the act by Paramount, Universal, Fox and Pathe Film Companies in 1937. Robert in foreground.

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The Robert Ross Home — Corner of North Fourth and West Concord St. Now a portion of Sheldon Motel.

Home built by Dr. Zorah Patrick — Early 1880's. Now home of Robert Megginson's.



The Bert Mason home — North Fourth St.

James Eastburn home on East Concord St. Now property of Mrs. Alfred Webster and son Herschel.





Charles H. Brubaker, 1853-1936, early school teacher. His "Diaries" were invaluable to the History Committee. They are now the property of his nephew, Harry Brubaker.

W. B. Fleager home on South Fourth St. Ladies L. to R. — Miss Milliman, Mrs. Fleager and Mrs. H. Milliman, sister-in-law of Mrs. Fleager, Mr. W. B. Fleager in buggy. Now Latimer Apartment House.



The Orren Smith home, built in 1871, picture 1879. Lady standing in yard, Mrs. E. T. Soper, Mr. O. G. Smith and Mrs. Smith on porch. Now home of Harry and Miss Gertrude Smith.



Barton Bishopp home, one of the early homes in Sheldon. Still stands at the corner of North Fifth and Iroquois Sts. Now home of William Bishopp and mother, Mrs. W. F. Bishopp.



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Home of Dr. Orlando Bush, scene of Sheldon's First Arbor Day. When Dr. Bush arrived in Sheldon in 1871, there was only one tree, an apple, in the area. The following spring he moved maples in from his farm. Some of them are still standing at the home of his daughter and granddaughter, Mrs. H. C. Dowell and Miss Genevra Gibson.



Lucy M. (Aunt) Gray, the "Lady with the Lantern". Aunt Gray came to Sheldon, many years before street lights, and as long as she lived she always carried a lantern after sundown. Her light passing was a sure sign 'Aunt' was on her way to church or to visit a sick friend. She passed away in 1924, age 91 years, over 50 of them were spent in Sheldon.

Mrs. Carrie C. Disosway, Sheldon Unit 393, was elected Illinois Department President of the American Legion Auxiliary, 1951 - 1952. Mrs. Disosway has also served four terms as Illinois State President of the Flying Farmers, 1953 - 1957. She is the only woman to have had this honor. She represented Illinois in the National Flying Farmer Queen contest, held in Kansas in 1953. Mrs. Disosway is listed in "Who's Who of the Midwest."



Disosway's Airport, owned and operated by Fred S. Disosway, is located southwest of Sheldon. One of first airports opened in this part of Illinois, the first in Iroquois County. They also had first G. I. Flight and Ground School after the close of World War II. Licensed and lighted for night flying. Picture was taken at "Fly In Breakfast" of Flying Farmers. Mr. and Mrs. Disosway are second and third from right in front row, kneeling on ground.

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Fritz Rougk and the 1908 White Steamer, owned by his father, Hugo Rougk. It was run here in Sheldon until 1926. It was sold as an antique in 1958.



Old Eastburn Cabin, size 18' by 20'. It stood a short distance southeast of the Eastburn Memorial marker. The last to live here was William Lloyd Eastburn and bride, the former Miss Massa Hougland, they were married in 1854. It was the birth place of seven of their nine children. In the early 1870's they built the home, where Parker Eastburn, their youngest son lives. The cabin was used as a hay and feed shed for many years. Picture was taken, just before it was torn down in 1900.

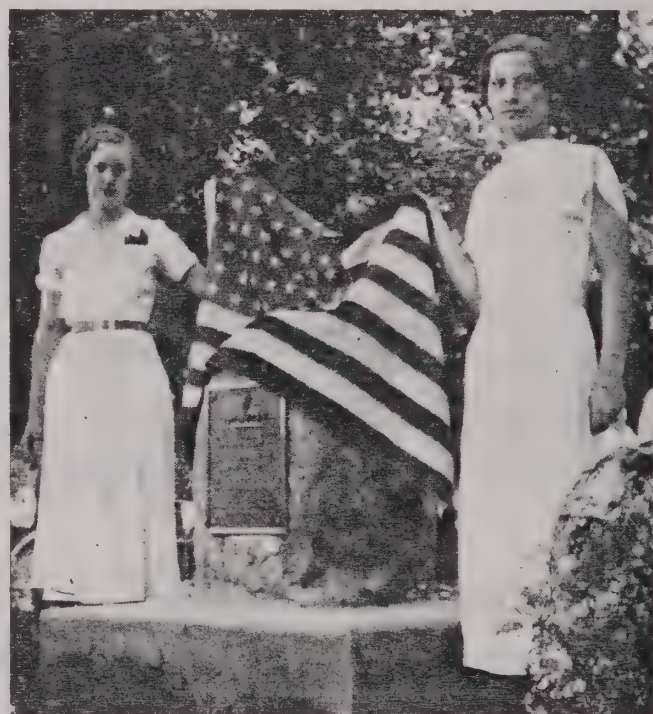


Standard Oil Tank Wagon, Driver, Charles Clawson.



When Disosway's Grocery purchased a car load, (20,000 lbs.) of Monarch Finer Foods in September 1940.

L. to R. James Peck, Ralph Hoagland, Clarence Ingalls, William Disosway, Mrs. Disosway and Ray Mayhew, driver of one of the trucks.



Dedication of marker, erected in 1933, on the 100th anniversary of the arrival of Jesse Eastburn, first settler in Sheldon Township. Unveiling marker, Kathleen Eastburn (Ashby) and Lillian Eastburn (Messman) great, great granddaughters of the pioneer.

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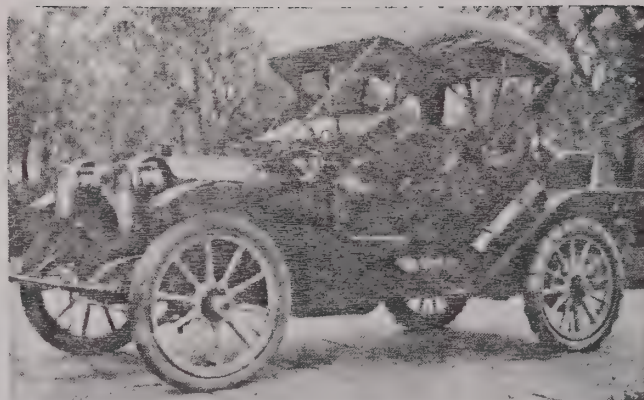
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Watseka, Illinois

ON THE FARM SERVICE



Harold Snow's first airplane, August 4, 1919.



L. D. Snow had first automobile in town, 1909



Mendenhall Bros.

Mendenhall's Grocery put in twice daily delivery service, September 1901.

L. to R. Mrs. Luhring, Mr. William Luhring, deliveryman, Mrs. William Ward.



H. C. Dowell and Henry Strickler Garage.

In picture are — H. C. Dowell, Henry Strickler, O. B. Humma, Frank Dowling, Charles Cassell and Dr. Ed. Bunday is seated in first car.



John Bowton's Threshing Machine, picture taken August 19, 1897. Mr. Bowton standing on ground, with hand on engine. Wilton Bowton on pony.

THE OLD AND THE NEW

At left — Wolfe's Modern Combines L. to R. P. H. Bertram, Byron Bolling and Kenneth Wolfe, owner.



At right — Wolfe's Cornpicker-Sheller Machines. L. to R. — P. H. Bertram, Byran Bolling and Kenneth Wolfe, owner.



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By Daniel Francis Clancy

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